To: Dr. Erika Paterson, ENGL301 99A Professor
From: Aleem Tariq, ENGL301 99A Student
Date: November 13, 2020
Subject: Progress Report on Formal Report Assignment

This is a progress summary on my formal report, which addresses the importance of pursuing additional computing background for students in the Life Sciences.

Audience

The primary audience of this report are UBC undergraduates in the Life Sciences. A case may be made that the departmental head of UBC Biology should also be notified of the findings.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to:
- Explore the importance of Computer Science in the field of Biology; industry and research.
- Investigate the current offering of UBC courses at the intersection of Biology and Computer Science
- Communicate with faculty in the Life Sciences, collecting data on the computational tools they both use in research, and demand from prospective researchers.
- Develop a strong case to sufficiently motivate my intended audience to acquire a computational background beyond the minimum pre-requisites.

Significance

Although the case will be made through my report, there is no doubt in my mind that obtaining a skillset in Computing is a significant return on investment for a student in the Life Sciences. I will demonstrate that such skills are not only required at present in research labs, but will be both increasingly in-demand and eventually largely encompass how one approaches problem domains in Biology.

Research Plan

Primary Source:
- Surveys and Interviews with research professors in the Life Sciences, specifics:
    - Inquire about the expectations made of students interesting in research
    - Inquire about the computational tools used in research
    - Inquire about what sorts of specific computing skillsets are preferred
    - Inquire about the role of computing in the field, present and future

Secondary Source:

- Online information regarding the impact of Computer Science on Biology
- Analysis on techniques involved in large numbers of cutting-edge Biological research papers

Writing Schedule

- Nov 13th: Contact all professors, notifying them of research and requesting their input (no survey included)
- Nov 15th: Contact all researchers, notifying them of research and requesting their input (no survey included)
- Nov 16th – 20th: Surveys sent to professors, researchers and students (tentative: according to feedback)
- Nov 23rd: Analysis of survey results and secondary research
- Nov 27th: Complete and summarize the research
- Dec 1st: Complete Formal Report Draft and post on team forum
- Dec 11th: Revise formal report based on peer review
- Dec 13th: Additional revisions, incorporation of data
- Dec 17th: Formal report deadline and report posted on team forum

Please let me know of any suggestions in so that I can make improvements to my plan and schedule. I look forward to continuing my research once I receive your approval for my scheduled writings. Thank you!