

Self-Assessment of TA Performance – Spring Semester 2018

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The Spring 2018 Semester was my first semester as a graduate teaching assistant for the Principles of Genetics course. I held a 50-minute recitation section once a week while also aiding the instructor during the lecture portion of the class which met three times a week. This semester has been one of the most influential learning experiences of how to teach. I was able to apply concepts I had learned through the cognate of college teaching and identify some of my strengths and weaknesses in teaching.

Upon reflection and reading thorough my students' evaluations, I have identified areas of improvement in my teaching. Many students suggested to incorporate more learning activities into the recitation classes. I think that is an excellent idea and is something I will try to do for the next time I teach. With this semester being my first experience leading a class, I was unsure of what learning activities to incorporate and how to best conduct those activities. After taking all of the cognate classes, I feel comfortable and have ideas of additional learning activities to add such as the one-minute summary, more quizzes that interleave the material, and creating concept maps.

Another area that I can improve, based on my evaluations, are my explanations of the material. I think if I create a small PowerPoint presentation with diagrams for each class to review the material and connect that material to the learning objectives would help. This past semester when I would explain some of the concepts, I didn't use figures, I just spoke to the students. Adding a multimedia presentation to review key points from the lecture would help with my explanations of the material and students understanding those explanations.

Overall, I was very pleased with my evaluations, I received a lot of positive feedback. I was happy to see that students thought I was helpful and enthusiastic/passionate about the material. Many students responded that they enjoyed the quizzes I created for exam review and encouraged me to add more learning activities which I will do. Ultimately, I think adding in extra activities will help improve student learning and their experience in this course; this will be the aspect of my teaching that I will improve on in the next class I teach.