Reflective Essay - How Lizards Find Their Way Home
[summative assessment]

Objectives

1. This reflective writing is designed to help students reflect on their learning experiences from the Lizard Evolution graph interpretation activity and the following scientific movie.
2. Through this assignment, students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the key concepts learned from the scientific methods, and reflect on how the learning can be applied in their future academic and professional pursuits.

Instructions

1. Review the in-class activity about the Lizard Evolution. Take note of the important scientific concepts (research question, experiment design, data collection, analyses, conclusions etc.) presented in the research.
2. Watch an 8:32-minute short movie about how scientists investigate lizards' behavior in the field. Take note of the important scientific concepts (research question, experiment design, data collection, analyses, conclusions etc.) presented in the movie.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVjSlqbloll

Writing assignments

1. Post your notes on the essential scientific concepts you extracted for both lizard activities (see the above Instructions section) (no less than 200 words). (3pts))
2. Based on the information learned from the movie, propose three specific research questions that you are interested in doing in the next step of research about how lizards navigate home. Note that research questions have to be very specific and relevant to focus on a single problem or issue. A general question like "how do lizards find their home?" is too broad. (50-100 words) (2pts))
3. Write a reflective essay of 300-500 words in response to the following questions: (5pts)

- Look at your notes on the important scientific concepts, how do these concepts relate to the course material?
- What was your challenge in reading and interpreting scientific graphs before the Lizard activity? How are you feeling now?
- What was your biggest takeaway from two pieces of learnings from the primary scientific research?
• How do you plan to apply this learning in your future academic and professional pursuits?

Submit your writings via Text entry on Canvas before the due date. Please ensure that your essay is well-formatted and adequately referenced if needed. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade (zero) for the assignment.

**Supporting Resource**

- [How to write a strong research question - Criteria & Examples](#).

**Grading**

The reflective writing assignment will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated understanding of the scientific concepts and scientific methods presented in both lizard activities.
2. Ability to reflect on graph interpretation.
3. Reflection on how the learning from the activity can be applied in future academic and professional pursuits.
4. Clarity and coherence of writing.
5. Adherence to the word limit of each section.