

Filtration Situation

Our third reflection prompt is focused on the aspect of the specific data in our experiment, what we have collected so far in our chosen research, and describes the experience in detail. This is imperative to show that we have learned/achieved something from all the work and effort we have put into all of our projects. I feel it is also a test in how you feel about your topic, and more importantly, in some cases, how other people feel about the topic, as some people have put out surveys and the like, or hosted an interview, or have conducted another type of experiment, this is all to say that there is a wealth of data to be collected.

In my case specifically, I have just completed an annotated bibliography, a document used to consolidate all of my sources and data, along with my detailed thoughts, such as why I chose that source, and how it helps with my main goal. But before the annotated bibliography, we had to choose a topic our experiment would be on, something related to our overarching learning prompt, and I chose water filtration, as that is something I had been interested in for a while. I am soon about to participate in a water fair, and I, along with others pursuing this pathway, have been tasked with selecting a lesson plan that can be presented at the water fair, which will be held at JJK Fan with a variety of ages, something I will touch on later. On the annotated bibliography, we needed to find 10 sources we could use as references for our lesson plans, and we needed to describe how that source was viable for our lesson plan.

In each of my sources, they all detailed similar methods on how to perform my water filtration project. The main idea is to use a soda bottle to then fill said bottle with rocks, gravel, sand, and activated charcoal. Then you need to pour any contaminated water (visibly unclean water) into the bottle and wait. After a few minutes, the water will have traveled through the different layers and have its impurities filtered throughout the layers, and then at the end, with cotton balls at the bottom, clear water would drop into the collector, though I will note that even though this water looks clear, it still is not free of all microorganisms and boiling/filtration is required for truly potable water.

One thing I feel has gone well is the source collection itself, as I am a bit familiar with the topic of water filtration and given the nature of my project being presented to children aged 9-15, I needed a short form of source, something that can be expressed in a short time, as I needed my project to be performed in a short time. As such, some of my source data is in the form of videos sourced from YouTube. I felt it was a nice change of pace, considering up until that point I had been using almost exclusively articles and websites with large blocks of text.

Something I didn't foresee was the difficulty of the experiment's components. Despite all the sources telling me how easy finding the components would be, there are actually quite a few particulars to be sorted out to make sure my water filtration project, such as activated charcoal to boost the absorption of the contaminants, as well as gravel, though I will say I should have considered that there are multiple ways to perform this experiment and I shouldn't have gotten over the repetitive nature as it was repetitive for a reason.