GATHERING MOSS Photo Connections

This assignment asks students to connect their nature-based photography with a concept from their reading of *Gathering Moss*, using their Textual Analysis notes. It asks students to be creative as they review their book and photographs -- and to use graphic design to connect photos and experiences with the overarching ecoliteracy or course theme (anatomy, interdependence, health, or mindfulness depending on the week).

- **Annotation** helps students actively engage with a text. Throughout the course, students followed an instructor-created Textual Analysis guide to annotate their reading of *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Students also annotate their application-based public health textbook.
- **Clip-on Microscopes** allow students to engage with their natural world from an entirely new perspective. Students' Individual Field Kits contain interactive tools and gear, including a microscope that clips onto a smartphone or tablet and allows for detailed photos.
- **Mentorship Pods** bring 4-5 college and high school students together in guided health science and interpersonal connection online and during in-person Field Experiences. The Pod structure allows students to share and gain diverse perspectives while reducing the pressure and intimidation associated with traditional one-on-one mentorship.

Students synthesized four components into each Photo Connections assignment:

1. Connection with a key course theme that varied by week (i.e. anatomy, interdependence, health, etc)
2. Individual textual analysis notes of the book *Gathering Moss*
3. Clip-on microscope photography using their Individual Field Kit learning tools
4. Reflection from collective Field Experiences with near-peer Mentorship Pods

Students used Adobe Creative Cloud Express to create their Photo Collage. They then posted each collage to the #Gallery channel in their online mentorship space for display and commentary.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

Confucius adaptation