**Video Self-Critique/Reflection**

**All video-taped lessons must be dated and saved.**

Name: Samantha Loomis Date: 10/30/12

Subject: Honors Biology

**Lesson Outcomes or Objectives:**

1. Students will discover how energy flows and is transferred between organisms of an ecosystem by assuming various roles in a marine food chain.
2. Students will be able to explain how energy is transformed around organisms in an ecosystem, and how energy is dissipated as heat into the environment.

**Strengths of the lesson:**

I think that overall this lesson was engaging because it involved lots of active student involvement and was kinesthetic, visual, and auditory. This will ensure that students will remember the analogy that they were modeling so that I can refer back to it in future analogies.

**Changes I would make if I were to teach this lesson again:**

Although the lesson was successful overall, there are many things I would do to improve it in the future. In the anticipatory set (when students are arranging themselves into a food web), I would put pictures along with the name of the organism on the sheets of paper they are holding. This would make this activity more visual and introduce students to organisms that they are unfamiliar with. To make directions more clear I would draw the formation they will be in outside on the board.

I realized that this activity would have provided a good opportunity for students to make predictions before going outside. This might also give me a better idea of what background knowledge they already have.

Although student involvement was good, there is room for improvement. I had to talk to some of the “judges” who were standing to the side and not participating. Instead of having students volunteer, I should have assigned roles, possibly as students walked in the door. I could also have other roles such as “calculators” or “measurers” once inside.

There was lots of talking once we came back inside after the game. I should have told students ahead of time what we would be doing once we come back in so that there was no confusion.

**Questioning Techniques – did I include higher level thinking skills?**

The questions that were discussed or completed as homework included knowledge, comprehension, application, and analysis. They did not include synthesis and evaluation level questions. These were done later in their food web/energy pyramid group projects

**Did I give effective reinforcement?**

I think I should have given more positive feedback for participation. This is always something I can work on to increase everyday participation.

**Turn off the sound and watch your mannerisms – What did you see?**

It was very difficult to see due to the poor quality of the video. However, I seemed to be smiling and gesturing with my hands. I think that I should still show more animation in my facial expressions.

**Additional comments:**

I need to remember to greet students every day before making any announcements at the beginning of class. I also should have warned my students that they were going to be videoed. This is something I will need to make sure to do before my TPA unit.