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Personal Reflection

For my rhetorical analysis, I chose to learn about the effects of light pollution on marine wildlife through an article in the *Journal of Animal Ecology* as well as a TED Talk by Kelsey Johnson. I am a major in physical science, and I have always known I wanted to major in natural science because of my interest in our planet and others. Sometimes, though, I wonder if it would have been a better choice for me to be a life science major. This assignment let me explore some of what I have been missing. Especially regarding marine environments, I know that I will learn about the oceans with the major I am currently in, but this assignment let me examine the oceans through a biological lens rather than a physical one.

The medium of my chosen piece of rhetoric also has some significance to me. I have known about TED talks for a few years now, but I only started getting into them last summer, as I was looking for some direction before college. While I enjoyed them at first, I started becoming more skeptical of them after I watched one that I did not find to be up to par with the others, in terms of quality of information and bias. I started wondering then about what goes into making a TED Talk—who gets to make one anyway? What qualifications do people need? How do creators benefit from making them, and how do they choose what to make their speeches about? I figured that a rhetorical analysis would be one of the best ways to learn more about the acclaimed videos. In retrospect, I am quite satisfied with my chosen type of rhetoric in addition to my topic.