**Original Work Set-up and Completion Summary**

**Objective/Purpose:** My purpose throughout creating my research website was to learn more about Group B Streptococcus infection as it often appeared throughout my research from the beginning of this year and on. The fact that it was so connected within the neonatal world when it came to researching infection made me want to seek out and connect all of the dots I possibly could, ultimately expanding the expanse of my knowledge not only of neonatal infection, but the world of neonatology as a whole.

**Materials:** All I needed to create my website was a laptop (decorated with only the finest stickers) and the internet! However, my visual aid consisted of a vase (somewhat shaped like a womb and cervix), clear hair gel to represent the amniotic fluid, a leather cord to represent the umbilical cord, some red Play-Doh to create the placenta, fine green glitter to represent the GBS bacteria, and a small newborn baby doll.

**Description of Process:** To create a website stock full of information, I first had to find the information itself. I spent hours upon hours researching potential articles and bookmarking them for later. After assembling a substantial list, I divided everything into the categories I desired to focus on, and created a website template. Coming up with an appropriate website URL was probably my greatest challenge. After I had the skeleton of my site constructed, I set out to read the articles. I created a document to plop all of my research so I could later agglomerate it all much easier. After finishing most of my research, I added it to my website, but decided I could add more, and continued to research more dots to connect within this broad topic. I eventually decided I needed something extra besides a website, and set my sights on creating a model of an ascending bacterial infection like GBS for a visual aid. However, finding the materials to actually create a makeshift womb from scratch served more difficult than I first imagined. I actually spent an entire day going from craft store to grocery store to dollar store looking for items that could potentially do the job. After finally locating everything I needed, I set it aside and finished designing the main spectacle of my original work, the research website.

**Utilization of Higher-Level Thinking Skills:** My ability to comprehend the articles I was reading is definitely a huge utilization of higher-level thinking skills. A lot of the articles I came across were meant for researchers and other health professionals, so there was a lot of advanced vocabulary that I needed to take the time to learn. Comprehension was only part of the job, however. I needed to be able to identify and extract the most vital parts of the information I came across, which usually came in papers of 20 or more pages at a time. I needed to find credible sources, so I spent my time looking into who had written and reviewed the information I was studying, as well as properly citing it in my website. Then, putting all of the most relevant information I had acquired into a creative and visually appealing format was another way I utilized higher-level thinking skills. As for my visual aid, coming up with materials to use to properly model an infection in the amniotic fluid and what that can look like in late pregnancy required serious and careful thought that forced me to exit the conventional box of thinking.

**Results:** Throughout my extensive research, I was able to successfully obtain multitudes of relevant information toward what GBS is and why it is important to be knowledgeable of it in the neonatal world. I feel extremely content with that I have created, and while the topic may bore most, it was surprisingly interesting to learn about and I did not find myself drowsing off into another train of thought when gathering my information. Looking at my website and visual aid I feel proud of what I have created, as well as someone who can be trusted to give factual information about group B strep infection.

**Conclusions/Interpretations:** A conclusion I have drawn from this entire experience is that I am truly interested in neonatology. I genuinely am surprised at how nothing has bored me, and I take it to be a really good sign that this career that I decided to take a chance on this year is actually a pretty good fit for me. I know I still have a lot to learn, but with this project finished I can absolutely say that I am comfortable with the amount of knowledge I’ve gained and do not feel as afraid or intimidated by medicine anymore.

**Application/Meaning:** Obviously, GBS is a huge deal in the neonatal-perinatal women. While the disease rates have gone down due to rising awareness and research, I am glad that I have the opportunity to spread my knowledge even if it’s only to a few people, because that’s a few people more who are now educated in the significance of this topic. I underestimated how interested I would become in neonatal disease and infection, but I feel if this project was only the start and I am excited to see where things go from here.