

### Poultry Physiology Reflective Writing Assignment Three

After dissecting birds several times throughout the course of this semester, we have learned techniques that help aid in looking at all parts of the systems within the bird. We have examined systems thoroughly to learn the organs and how they are set up within the body. The worst problem that we have seen as a class is that the older that the birds get, the harder they are to dissect. The reason they are harder is because it is more difficult to find the shoulder girdle which is where we can separate the breasts from the rest of the body. Older birds also smell worst. I had a bird in one of the labs that had pulmonary hypertension (water belly) and it was difficult to dissect because of all the fluid in the bird's abdomen. With all of the fluid flowing from the bird, it creates a large mess as well. The next lab we have will be just a run through of everything before our lab final. The lab final will be an oral exam that we must identify parts of the chicken that we have been looking at over the course of the semester. I am looking forward to this exam because we have been able to see these organs first hand. I feel as I have learned more about the birds makeup in this lab because of the hands-on experience than I could have learned through a textbook or diagram. This experience is something that I will be able to take with me to my next classes as well as into the poultry industry and hopefully help come up with solutions to industry problems.

There have not been many problems with the dissection process for me. Other than having to step outside and get a fresh breath of air occasionally, I have done well. From day one I had set my mind to learning and enjoying this physiology lab and that is what I have done. This atmosphere of learning is what I enjoy. Being hands-on with a topic I enjoy and with my friends has been a huge boost to the class. One comparison that I am able to make this semester is that in one of my other labs, we have been dissecting rats. The rats have been in formaldehyde to preserve them. The comparison that I can make is that I enjoy dissecting chickens so much more because it is a fresh specimen. Another good thing is that in the field that I

want to go into, it is possible that I will have to dissect a chicken to find a problem or to try and come up with a solution. The physiology lab is so much more applicable to what I am studying and that is one of the reasons that I like it so much more.