My name is Dominique Martinez and although I am a biology major I don’t know what I want to do. I’m on track for pre-med which excites me. I like the weird medical stuff such as pimple popping and rhinoplasty which I YouTube all the time but at the ripe age of 31 I realize that this goal was set to make my mother happy and I’m not sure if I will be happy. I am also not thrilled at the idea of how many years it will take me to become a doctor. Due to my age and the fact that I feel like I have been in school forever (struggling) my backup plan is PA school but who knows tomorrow I might change my mind a say some crazy nonsense like I want to be a pirate and try to make that happen. It is very discouraging to not know what I really want to do but I know that whatever that is and hopefully I will figure that out soon education will be a big ticket to the success in that endeavor so her I am.

 When I first signed up for this class I wasn’t sure how I would feel about it and knew it was a requirement, so I was going to take it no matter what. Now after a week of class and now having the honor of having met you I look for to what this class will bring to my life. I am hoping to learn things like why does my eye twitch uncontrollably sometimes and about the differentiation of sex cells. Specifically, mutations that may occur within the sex cell that may cause hermaphroditism.

 Starting at a young age I was always curious about disease. How it affects the body? How it had the ability to kill? What’s going on on a cellular level? Very specifically sexually transmitted diseases. This was due to a death of someone close to me who was HIV positive and had AIDS when I was just a little girl. After that I was terrified by sex and wanted to know everything and anything that related to it which sparked this curiosity in sexually transmitted disease. This curiosity led to many years of my life thinking that I wanted to be a sex therapist and sex educator. Something that I am a little ashamed of now as an adult, as a teenager I had a favorite sexually transmitted disease. Not that I wanted a sex transmitted disease but that I thought some of them had symptoms that made them well kind of badassed for lack of a better word. My focus will be AIDS and HIV. What I know about AIDS and HIV is basic. That AIDS is what happens at the final stages of HIV. You must be HIV positive to have AIDS and by the time AIDS occurs your immune system has been compromised beyond repair. HIV uses helper T cells to replicated making it a very dangerous virus and it is spread the contact of bodily fluid such as blood and semen from person to person.

 Although I know that there are many antibiotics that allow those living with HIV to have a long and “healthy” life my research paper would explore way beyond this. I know that HIV is ever changing making it nearly impossible to find a cure, but I would like to explore the ideal of a programmed modification of the helper T cell. This sounds crazy but maybe not I want to explore the immune system that consist of an infinite number of cells maybe there is a cell that can recognize HIV maybe it needs to be programmed. Like a vaccine does for many diseases. I think there is an ideal there somewhere.