

Response to Editor and Reviewers

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a corrected version of our manuscript.

We apologize for the two omissions identified in the previous submission. Both requested passages have now been inserted as committed in our previous response letter, with only minor formatting adjustments. Specifically, we have revised the Conclusion to distinguish students' self-reported perceptions from directly measured quantitative geological field performance. We have also expanded Section 5.5 to address anxiety around unfamiliar field environments, the analogy with preparatory social stories, and the possibility that virtual environments may themselves constitute a form of novelty space. The Gray and Garand (1993) citation has been added to the text and reference list.

We have carefully checked the revised manuscript against our previous response letter to ensure that both requested changes are accurately reflected in the submitted version.

Sincerely,

Rafael K. Horota

on behalf of all co-authors