

Appendix C: Written Lab Report Guidelines

Title

Write the title of your experiment at the top of the page. You make up your own title; it can be anything related to the experiment.

Question

What are you investigating? / What is your purpose? Be sure to include *why* you are investigating this.

Hypothesis

State your hypothesis – your proposed answer to your question, including evidence to support your idea.

Procedure

List the steps needed to conduct the experiment. Be sure to:

- List them in number format (1, 2, 3, etc.).
- Control variables – be specific with measurements!

Data

Record observations and measurements in a data table. Be sure to include clear labels and proper units.

Data Analysis

Create a graph or diagram to interpret your data. Be sure to include a title, labels, and a key (if necessary). The data you graph should help to answer your original question.

Conclusion

Answer the following questions in paragraph format.

- Summarize the most important data in 1-3 sentences.
- Formulate a conclusion – what can you conclude about your original question based on your results?
- Re-state your hypothesis and discuss whether or not *the data supported* it, using at least one specific number/observation as evidence.
 - Do NOT write that your hypothesis is *right* or *wrong*!
- Discuss at least one possible error in your procedure:
 - Describe the error.
 - Describe how it might have affected the results.
 - Describe specific changes you would make to avoid this error if you ran the experiment again.
- State at least one new question that you could investigate to *extend* the results of this investigation.
 - Explain why this question would be important to research.