

Laboratory Report Format

Purpose

This section should describe the reason for doing the lab and present the major question that is to be answered. List the experimental variables to be tested and the variables that will be controlled.

Prediction

Before conducting the investigation, think about the problem to be investigated and form an idea of what you think will happen. In this section of the report, state your prediction of the experimental results.

Procedure

If the procedure was provided for you, briefly describe the equipment you used and how you used it.

If you were asked to design your own experiment, include a materials list and a detailed, step-by-step description of the experiment.

Data

This section will generally include one or more data tables or lists of observations that contain all information collected during the lab. Sometimes data are recorded as numbers; other types of data are more easily written in words. If you are asked to use numerical data to create a graph, place the graph in this section of the report.

Calculations

In this section, clearly show all your mathematical work, with units, so that others can easily understand how you analyzed your data.

Analysis Questions

In this section, include your answers to the Individual Analysis Questions assigned by your teacher. Answer in the best way you can. Your teacher may indicate that some questions will be scored using specific scoring guides. Use this information in composing your answers.

Conclusion

This section should be short and concise, and should respond to the major question posed in the Purpose section of the report. Explain whether or not the results of your investigation matched your prediction. State again the variable(s) tested and describe the effect(s), if any, produced by changes in the variable(s). If any relationships were established between variables, those relationships should be described here.