

Formal Lab Reports

TITLE: copy it from the handout.

PURPOSE:

What are you trying to find out (or learn) from this experiment? Say it in one or two sentences. E.g. *“to determine the density of alcohol solution”*.

METHOD:

How are you going to find it out? Describe what you will measure and calculate, in general terms. (Don't write it like a recipe!)

E.g. *“I will calculate the density of alcohol solution using the equation $D = m/V$. I will measure the solution's volume, using a measuring cylinder. The solution's mass will be found using an electronic balance, by subtracting the empty cylinder's mass from its mass when it contains the alcohol.”*

OBSERVATIONS/DATA

Write all your data straight into your tables. Neatly draw a line through any mistakes.

Data is what you measure.

Results are what you calculate.

RESULTS and ANALYSIS

These are any calculations, graphs, tables or questions that the handout asks you to complete.

Use proper calculation format, using correct units, and use an appropriate number of significant figures. If you have to do many calculations all the same, you only have to write out one of them in proper format, to show what you are doing.

The best answers to analysis questions usually refer specifically to the results of your experiment.

When to write which parts

Before the lab, you are expected to type up most of this in advance: the title, purpose and method. Also, you should make “data tables”, i.e. create tables where you can enter the measurements you are going to make. Make sure I sign your “pre-lab” during the experiment.

After the lab, finish typing the report. You can change the method, data tables etc. if you want to, provided you still include the original version that I signed. You will be graded on the final version.

Ethics

You can work with other students to get data, and you can discuss the questions to figure out how to solve problems, etc. However, you must turn in your own report, written in your own words. There is a big difference between collaborative work and copying!