

SCIENCE LAB REPORTS

Lab Partner Names

Date

Title

Introduction

Explain the purpose of the experiment.

Give background info needed to understand the lab.

Identify your manipulated (independent) and responding (dependent) variables as well as your control.

State your hypothesis (this should follow logically from info in your introduction).

Procedure

Describe materials and methods in enough detail that other scientists could repeat the experiment without having to refer to other documents.

Include critical experimental conditions (e.g., temperature, number of organisms), but not trivia such as test tube size.

Report settings used (ex. heat setting on a hot plate).

Results

Include observations and measurements.

Present raw data first, then any important calculations.

Write qualitative data (observations) in complete sentences.

Present quantitative data or calculations in clearly labeled tables or graphs. It is often useful to list data in a table, then follow it with data plotted on a graph.

Carry significant figures to one decimal place beyond those given / measured.

Discussion

Write in paragraph form, summarizing (*not repeating*) and critically evaluating your results. Refer to your hypothesis and information in the introduction.

Explain what you expected to happen, why things happened as they did, and any inconsistencies in the data.

Discuss problems or potential errors and practical ways to minimize them.

Draw conclusions from your data and make suggestions for further research.

Describe the significance of your results and implications beyond the lab.

Address any lab questions in this section.

References

Cite all references used in the experiment and the writing of the report.

Adapted from: Environmental Science Lab Reports, by Amanda Beckrich, The Science Teacher magazine, January 2012