

Lab Report Format and Grading

INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR LAB REPORT.

Abstract: The lab abstract is a summary of all of the sections in your lab report. The lab abstract is limited to 2 paragraphs. The first sentence will always be your problem, followed by the hypothesis statement. The third sentence will be what the numbers mean in the data. The rest of your essay should now focus on the explanations of how the variable affected the experiment. Bring out information that will show understanding of the concepts involved in the study. When explaining your results, give biological reasons for happenings and physiological reasons for changes. The last sentence of the abstract should be your conclusion. Was your hypothesis supported or not? Use a font size **no** smaller than this. On Microsoft Word, this font size is 11.

Problem: Pose as a question. Try rewording the lab overview in lab directions into the form of a question.

Hypothesis: If, then, because.

Procedure: Most labs will not require this. Just write that the directions for Lab # ___ were followed in the AP Lab Manual. If you are designing an experiment, list the steps of your procedure. Clearly identify the control and at least 3 factors you are controlling for. If required, this will be part of attachments.

Observations and Data: Get straight to the point of what you saw or the point of what data was collected. Use your graph work to help you get to the point. Make sure that charts are clearly labeled (title, rows, and columns labeled, don't forget units to numbers). Graphs are to be labeled clearly. Give each axis a title, show units of measurement, label all multiple lines, and give a title to your graph that summarizes the data being shown. All graph work is to appear on graph paper if it is hand-drawn or it may be on unlined paper if the graph is drawn from a computer program. Do not make graph paper with your graph on it.

Make **your own** charts, and graphs. You can use the design from the lab protocols but don't cut them out and paste onto your report.

Analysis: Thoroughly explain what the data means by describing how the variable affected the experiment. Always compare back to the control. Use data to support your statements. Background information to your topic is to be included and with all work cited or referenced. This section should relate to how the variable affected the biological and or physiological factors/function of the experiment. If questions are assigned from the lab to be included in your abstract, make their answers become part of the analysis. The answers will probably give explanations if they are thorough.

Conclusion: Relate back to the thesis. Was the hypothesis supported or not?

Though experimentation is performed in a group, **no two lab abstracts are alike. Your thoughts are yours and the expression of your thoughts can only be yours. Two identical lab abstracts being turned in will have a split grade for the shared effort.**

Grading

All sections are worth 5 points with the exception of the analysis which is worth 25 points.

Labs turned in after your class but on the same day will have 10 points deducted.

Labs turned in the next school day will have 50% of the grade deducted.

References

Internet documentation: Author, Title, Date of Material, Website, Date of Access, Address.

Book Publication: Author, Title, Publishing Company, Date, Pages used.

Before each lab, come to class with a problem, hypothesis, and identification of the control, identification of the variable or variables being tested, at least 3 controlling factors. These will be part of the lab preparation and performance grade. They will be checked during the lab.