Laboratory Reports

Heading

Fill in your name, partner’s name (if applicable), experiment name, date and section number on each page.

Experiment Summary

There are three questions addressed in the Experiment Summary for each experiment:

Tell why the experiment is being performed. This could be viewed as the purpose of the experiment. This should not be more than one sentence long.

Describe what is going to be done in the experiment to address the purpose. This is a brief summary of the procedure (without specifics). It should be no longer than two or three sentences.

Finally, show how the procedure helps achieve the purpose. This part contains the theory (with any relevant equations) behind the experiment. It should be anywhere from 3-5 sentences.

Be sure to:

write legibly, using the lines in the notebook. Use the whole page across.
use complete sentences (not bullet statements), passive voice (do not use “I”, “we”, “one”, or “the student”), and write in the future tense.
try to be very specific in what you write.

Questions

Write out the question (or refer to the question in your answer) and answer in complete sentences (even if a calculation is involved).

Data and Observations

Use the heading Data and Observations (continued) if more than one page is used. Organize your data in clearly labeled sections. Use tables when appropriate. Always include observations.

Data Treatment and Discussion

Write a description (narrative without numbering steps) of what you are calculating and then show the calculation and answer.

Conclusion

Clearly repeat the answer(s) found in Data Treatment and Discussion.