

Physical Science

Lab Write Up Format

All formal lab write-ups must be word-processed. There may be items such as diagrams and calculations that will not be able to be word-processed. These items must be neatly done and complete when turned in with a lab. For full credit, formal lab reports should include the following:

- ✓ **Title:** A meaningful title that describes what the investigation was about.
- ✓ **Purpose (objective):** What was the purpose of the experiment or activity? When appropriate include your hypothesis. These are often found in the lab instructions if they are read carefully.
- ✓ **Materials (apparatus):** List the equipment used to do the lab. If necessary or helpful include a description or picture of the experimental apparatus.
- ✓ **Procedure:** A step by step summary of the procedure you carried out for the lab. Please highlight any safety precautions.
- ✓ **Data (observations):** Any observations or measurements taken. When appropriate the data should be listed in table form. The raw data recorded during the lab should be turned in along with the word-processed version of the data and or observations.
- ✓ **Analysis/Calculations:** Show all calculations that were done. This is where you look for relationships or trends that occurred in the lab. Include any graphs here. Answer any lab questions here. Make sure that lab questions are numbered. Questions should be answered in complete sentences.

Three Important Points: ***ALL Labs will be evaluated upon the following...***

- 1.) Correct answers supported by lab data when appropriate
 - 2.) No spelling errors
 - 3.) Correct usage of all science terms
- ✓ **Error analysis:** Calculate your percent of error when appropriate. Discuss what may have caused your data to be different from expected values. Make sure your analysis matches your data. For example, if the mass of your product is high, you should not cite losing product in your error analysis. The results and your analysis do not match. Points will be subtracted for such mistakes.
 - ✓ **Conclusions:** From your analysis of the data you took and from theory draw your conclusions. Be sure to summarize your findings, explain what you learned, indicate any trends or generalizations that you noticed, re-explain the science behind the findings—put forth a plausible explanation for your findings. Briefly discuss your *experience* of the lab.