

Lab Report Format

Except where noted the lab report should be typed. Spelling and grammar should be checked.

- 1) Introduction – just one paragraph or so describing the experiment
- 2) Data – this should be the actual experimental data you obtained. Presenting it in tabular form is generally best.
- 3) Calculations – one sample calculation should be provided for each calculation type you do. This can be hand-written, but must be neat.
- 4) Results and Discussion – processed data (i.e. the results of your calculations), graphs, and explanations of your data should be provided here. Think about what your results mean as you write-up this section. What has this experiment shown (taught) you? If you discuss errors, don't just ascribe them to a generic "experimenter error." If something goes wrong, try to track down exactly what it was.
- 5) Post-Lab Questions – Answer these questions as full sentences, unless they are calculations (in which case they may be hand written). Some may have already been answered in Sections (3) or (4) as a natural consequence of the lab report. For example, in the first week's experiment you take measurements in order to determine the density of an unknown metal. Question (5) asks for that density, yet in your lab report you would surely have done that calculation anyway. In this situation, you don't need to answer question (5), since it's already in the Results and Discussion section.