

Lab Report Writing Hints

TITLE

- Should indicate what was studied
- Shouldn't try to be funny or catchy. Should be appropriate for the subject matter
- Lab report titles are not "attention grabbers"

INTRODUCTION

- Why was this experiment done/needed?
- Identify the problem or issue.
- How will this current experiment address the problem?
- Use complete sentences, but get straight to the point.
- Present tense should be used in the introduction.
- Intro should end with a hypothesis.

Hypothesis

- Should not be in the form of a question.
- Aka. Purpose Statement.
- What is the believed result of the experiment?

Methods and Materials

- How and when the work was done.
- This section should be clear and thorough enough for readers to be able to duplicate experiment.
- Use past tense – you have already done the experiment.
- Avoid first person (I, We).
- Use a passive voice (Six ml of HCl was acquired).
- Include any procedure that was altered from the original lab procedure.

RESULTS

- Present data
- Record results
- Use graphs and tables
- Post results in order
- Use past tense
- Write in full sentences.

DISCUSSION

- What do the results mean?
- Are there any patterns? Relationships?
- Be thorough
- Accept or reject hypothesis – why?
- Include anything that could have affected results: contamination, faulty equipment, or if anything went wrong.
- Last paragraph should be conclusion
- How are the results relevant?

*** Be sure to include any references used throughout the experiment/lab report writing process in APA format – Textbooks, lab manuals, any prior research/studies relevant to current experiment. ***

References

Home. (n.d.). Retrieved February 01, 2016, from <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/writing/specific-types-papers/writing-lab-reports-or-research-reports>