

SCIENCE 7 and 8

8/29/11

Formal Lab Write-Up Format (FLR)

THIS OUTLINE WILL HELP YOU WRITE YOUR LABS. There may be changes or modifications but all elements must be included in your lab write-up.

Name: (first and last)

Section:

Date:

Source: (text pg, HO, MK)

TITLE: As given in your text book, handout, or by the teacher.

PROBLEM:

Referred to as the "PROBLEM" in the text, handout, or by the instructor. This will be a short description of the purpose of the lab answering the question: "Why are we doing this lab?" It should be stated as follows, "The purpose of this laboratory investigation is to examine the effects of sunlight on plants".

HYPOTHESIS:

Your guess or prediction as to what will occur stated by using an "if - then" statement. For example: "If I don't turn in my homework on time, then Ms. Kimmerling will be really sad." This is not a required section in all labs. I will inform you if you are not to include it.

MATERIALS :

This is a recipe list of the materials that must include size, shape, color, and quantities used in the lab. Simply list the main materials; try to not take up a great deal of room on the paper. You may list materials in a straight line separated by commas. Example; pen, paper, glass stirrer, etc.

PROCEDURE:

Written out brief summary of instructions referring to all materials, times, etc. to be used in this lab. This should be done in third person past tense. For instance, "3 cups of water was added to the solution". There should be no I, we, us statements in the procedures.

DATA:

There is always some kind of data that needs to be taken down during an experiment. This section includes the notes you collect like the times, temperatures used, quantities, good things that happened and the bad. Sketches if required, would be included here. If possible, data should be in a table or chart. Sometimes data tables will be provided for you. When required, the data will also be graphed. **All** graphs should be done on graph paper and attached to the main body of the lab report. All lines in tables and graphs are to be made with a straight edge. You may use Microsoft Excel to help you with graphs. Make sure your visuals are easy to read. Give a title and label your graphs and charts.

ASSIGNED QUESTIONS: Answer all questions in the procedure of the book or any of the additional questions at the end of the lab that the instructor assigns if applicable. Use complete sentences.

CONCLUSION: THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE LAB!!! This portion should **summarize** everything you learned in the lab. It should have your personal opinion of the lab. Did you enjoy the lab? How can **you** make the experiment better? Did you make a mistake? Did your results agree with your hypothesis? Expand on what you learned, apply to your daily life and why it is important to you. You may use I statements in this portion.

Hint: Please conserve paper when handing in a lab. If **all** of the information can fit on one piece of paper, it is fine. No cover page is necessary. Graphics are also enjoyable but not necessary. Concentrate on content rather than appearance. Make sure you read your lab and check for errors. Labs should be easy to read, or they may be returned for redoing.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT FORMAL LAB REPORTS (Discover, Try This, and At Home Activities), need to include the following:

Title

Brief description of what you did

Observation/data

Think It Over (or Infer) (answer or do whatever it tells you for this part)