

Lab Report Format

Lincoln High School Chemistry

The purpose of writing a lab report is to provide a permanent record of the laboratory investigation and experiment. This will provide documentation for future reference and may be used to communicate results to other people. The following format, including each of the following elements, will meet these criteria. All lab reports should be typed in a size 12-font with 1½ or double spacing.

Name
Lab Partner(s)

Date
Period

Lab Title

Objective:

Clearly state the reason(s) that the lab is being performed. Your objective should be stated in a complete and concise manner.

Materials:

Apparatus

Expendables

This section should include a **complete** list of materials used during the lab. Make sure to include the size and/or amounts of the materials (e.g., 50 mL beaker, 5.00 g NaCl)

Procedure:

This is a detailed, step-by-step account of what tasks are performed during the experiment. *Each step should be numbered and in the correct sequence* as performed during the actual experiment. With teacher permission, you may state that the procedure was taken from the textbook, noting any changes and attach any lab handouts.

Data:

All data collected as a result of the experiment should be displayed in a neat, well-organized data table. In addition, the data table should be given an appropriate title.

The following is an **example** of a correct data table.

Area of Textbook

Trial	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Area (cm²)
1	30.0	67.7	2030
2	29.7	67.3	2000
3	30.1	67.5	2030
Average	29.9	67.5	2020

This section should also include any calculations and equations used during the experiment, **including units and using significant figures in all calculations.** If the calculations are repetitive as in the above calculation, you may include just one sample of each calculation. This section should also include any graphs required by the experiment.

Observations:

In this section you are to record all your observations and/or answer the observation questions written in the text or handout. Make sure your observations are detailed and complete. This includes observations made BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER the reaction, experiment, etc. Observations should be written in **complete sentences**. The length of this section depends on the experiment.

Conclusion:

The conclusion should summarize all of the major results or findings of the experiment and therefore should address the objectives of the lab and discuss the principles behind the lab. *Unless otherwise noted, it should be in paragraph form.* It should also discuss any significant sources of error in your experiment. You should be able to write a satisfactory conclusion in one or two succinct yet complete paragraphs.

BE SURE YOU USE THE APPROPRIATE VOCABULARY, UNDERLINED, IN YOUR REPORT.