How to Write Up a Lab in Chemistry

Title: What is the lab called? *You must put a title so the teacher knows what they're grading.*

Skip a line

Introduction:
(Sometimes "PURPOSE" is used instead)

The introduction should include a clear, simple statement of your purpose. In addition, the introduction should include a discussion of the important ideas that led you to design and perform the experiment.

For eample., you could include such things as 'why you are doing this investigation', 'what is interesting about the topic', and 'what information you have already gathered about the topic'.

Skip a line

Hypothesis: This is your 'educated guess' as to what the outcome of the experiment will be.
It can be written in 2 ways:

1) "IF…, THEN…" format (ex. "If I punch my little brother real hard, then he will cry.")
2) A statement of fact (ex. "When placed in vinegar, the marker will bleed all over the liquid in the beaker")

Skip a line

Materials: What did you use to test your hypothesis? *(think of it as a grocery list)*

Skip a line

Procedure: This is a STEP BY STEP explanation of **EXACTLY** what you did. The more detailed you are, the better it is. Someone off the street should be able to come in, look at your lab, read the procedure, and be able to perform the experiment.

Ex. of a GOOD Procedure

1. Add 1.0mL of vinegar to the 100mL beaker.
2. Add water to this beaker until the solution is 2cm deep.

Ex. of a BAD Procedure

Put some vinegar and water into a beaker.

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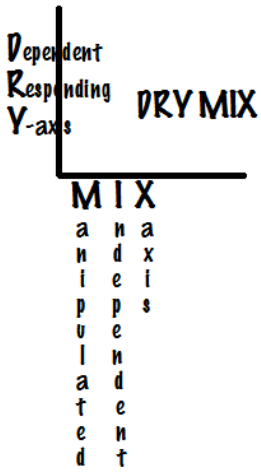
Results: This is the section where you **write AND draw** what you see**. BE AS DETAILED AS POSSIBLE!**



For the results section, you might be doing one (or all) of the following:

- **Draw diagrams** of what you see, and **COLOR** THEM!
- **Data tables** are probably the most common way of recording data. The best way to construct one is to choose a title for your data table and then make a list of the types of data to be collected. This list will become the headings for your data columns. *When filling out the data table, always be careful to place the information in the correct column or row.*
  - Depending on what you test, you may have to put some sort of graph or chart, or both.
    - 2 types of graphs that are usually used are a **LINE GRAPH** and a **BAR GRAPH**. Which ever graph you choose, you must remember to **TITLE IT & LABEL WHAT SIDE OF THE GRAPH MEANS WHAT.**

Skip a line

Conclusion: This is where you restate everything you did, and what happened, in a short paragraph.
Your conclusion should answer these questions:

1) What was the purpose of this lab?
2) What were your results?
3) What do you results mean?