

AP Science Laboratory Report Format

In general, the lab report should be neat and professional looking. Pretend that you are going to show it to a member of your future university's science department who will judge whether or not you will have to enroll in a four hour Saturday morning lab course. This will happen when you go to college and request credit for this AP course.

Each of your lab reports will be typed and will include the following sections. All lab reports are due on a specified day approximately one week after completion of the data collection. Late lab reports are generally not accepted for a grade, exceptions are only made when students make arrangements with teachers in advance of the due date.

All lab reports should follow the Clayton High School Writing Guides. (attached)

1. Title Page
 - Your name
 - Your lab partner(s) name(s)
 - Date(s) when experiment was performed
 - Due date
 - Title of the experiment
2. Objectives
 - Explain why you are doing the experiment. Is there a specific problem you're working on solving? Identify what the central question or problem is addressed by the lab/activity.
3. Procedure
 - What you did, step by step, in a numbered sequence. Don't use a paragraph format.
 - In labs where there is a printed procedure, you may simply cite the printed procedure and attach it to the lab report. If modifications were made to the printed procedure, they must be identified and explained.
4. Data/Observations
 - Each measurement taken must be listed, preferably in a data table.
 - All observations that are made and which address the objective must be included.
 - Do not include calculations in this section.
5. Calculations
 - Data manipulations are shown here.
 - When analyzing data in MS Excel or when multiple trials are being calculated, a sample set of calculations must be included, typically for your own data when calculating full class data.
6. Conclusions
 - This section begins with a statement summarizing results. This is directly linked to your objective section of the report.
 - Includes an error analysis. This can be quantitative if there is a known value, and this is expressed as a percent error. Mostly this section will be qualitative and involves identification of an error source AND how that error affected the reported objective. "Human error" is never cited as an error source.