

## Lab Report Outline

**This template is intended to act as a general guideline for completing a lab report. Refer to your Lab Manual, Program Guide and/or assignment rubric for more specific instructions.**

### Introduction

- Include the following background information:
  - Key points about the subject; may include definitions/terminology
  - Supporting theory, where applicable
  - Safety considerations (if not already included in pre-lab)

### Objective

- Address the ‘what’, ‘why’ and ‘how’ of the experiment

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### Method and Materials

- Refer to your lab manual; note any changes you made from the lab manual instructions
- Use paragraph structure to explain how the experiment was carried out
- Use the past tense of the verb in the passive voice to refer to what was done
- Example: The solution was heated. The measurements were taken.
- Be objective; avoid using ‘I’ or ‘We’

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### Observations

- Focus on key findings
- Describe the overall trends found from the experiment
- Use graphs, charts, tables and figures to help explain your results
- Show your calculations
- Put data in your lab workbook

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## Discussion

- Interpret your results; explain what your results mean
- Use paragraphs to organize your information
- Write clearly, concisely and correctly
- Compare the results with other experiments from reviewed sources
- Include points of discussion such as sources of error, future considerations, and applications in society

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## Conclusion

- Make a statement based on your objective that concludes the findings of your experiment

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## References

Most science and applied science courses use the APA Referencing format.

Reference your lab manual, if applicable, and reference any other sources you used to support your work.

The format for referencing a journal article in APA format is as follows:

Author's surname, first initial. (year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*. *Volume* (issue), page range.

DOI or URL

### Additional information:

- Unless stated otherwise, students who are working with a partner or in a group are expected to write their own lab reports for submission. Copying is not permitted.
- Correct spelling and grammar is important in technical and scientific writing. Marks may be deducted for spelling and grammar errors.
- This Lab Report Outline is intended to give you a basic structure to follow. Check with your professor and/or consult your lab manual for more specific instructions.