

The 10 Parts of a Laboratory Report

A specific format will be given to the student for each lab. Students must follow that format and label all sections very clearly. AP Chemistry lab reports are much longer and more in depth than the ones completed in the first year chemistry course. Therefore, it is important that students don't procrastinate when doing pre-lab and post-lab work. Late labs will not be accepted. Labs not completed in class must be done at lunch or before/ after school by appointment.

Pre-Lab Work

Pre-lab work is to be completed and turned in on the day the lab is performed.

1. Title

The title should be descriptive. For example, "pH Titration Lab" is a descriptive title and "Experiment 5" is not a descriptive title.

2. Date

This is the date the student performed the experiment.

3. Purpose

A purpose is a statement summarizing the "point" of the lab.

4. Procedure Outline

Students need to write an outline of the procedure. They should use bulleted statements or outline format to make it easy to read. If a student is doing a guided inquiry lab, they may be required to write a full procedure that they develop.

5. Pre-Lab Questions

Students will be given some questions to answer before the lab is done. They will need to either rewrite the question or incorporate the question in the answer. The idea here is that when someone (like a college professor) looks at a student's lab notebook, they should be able to tell what the question was by merely looking at their lab report. It is important to produce a good record of lab work.

6. Data Tables

Students will need to create any data tables or charts necessary for data collection in the lab.

During the Lab

7. Data

Students need to record all their data directly in their lab notebook. They are NOT to be recording data on their separate lab sheet. They need to label all data clearly and always include proper units of measurement. Students should underline, use capital letters, or use any device they choose to help organize this section well. They should space things out neatly and clearly.

Post-Lab Work

8. Calculations and Graphs

Students should show how calculations are carried out. Graphs need to be titled, axes need to be labeled, and units need to be shown on the axis. To receive credit for any graphs, they must be at least 1h page in size.

9. Conclusions

This will vary from lab to lab. Students will usually be given direction as to what to write, but it is expected that all conclusions will be well thought out and well written.

10. Post Lab Error Analysis Questions

Follow the same procedure as for Pre-Lab Questions.