

CHEM 159 LAB REPORT GUIDELINES

Summer 2009

The following information should be helpful in writing up a successful laboratory report for Chem 159. Although each student report may differ, these guidelines should be followed.

Please **use ink, or type**. Use **single side of paper only**, and **number each page**.

REMEMBER: When preparing your lab report, a good approach to keep in mind is to provide enough information to understand the experiment if you were to pick up your report a few years from now.

DATE should go at the top of the first page of each new experiment. The date is not needed on every page, unless you continued your work on a new day. Then you should note the new date.

TITLE and LAB PARTNER'S NAME should go at the top of the first page of the lab report. Be sure to indicate which name is YOU and which names are the PARTNERS.

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE: Please briefly state **WHAT** you are going to do, or **WHY** you are testing this or that, and **WHAT** you want to accomplish at the end of the experiment. This short section should be **in your own words**, and only needs to be a few sentences. You may include any chemical equations and formulas, molecular weights, etc., which are relevant to the experiment.

MATERIALS: List all *chemicals* used, then list all *lab equipment* needed for the experiment. A good way to do this is by listing the materials in two columns.

PROCEDURE: List a step-by-step procedure of **HOW** to perform the experiment. This is your simplified recipe or instructions for doing your experiment. All the information needed can be found in the lab textbook or handout that **may be cut and pasted**, or copied.

DATA / OBSERVATIONS: This section includes all your **numbers** and your **observations**. For example: physical observations, temperature, mass, and any changes you made in the procedures, such as improvements or mistakes. This section also serves to **record anything that happened** during each procedure. You can also set your data recording in tables. For example:

Trial #	Mass (g)	Volume (mL)
1		
2		

CONCLUSION: In this section, you sum it all up. **Restate** your answers/results in a clear, organized way. Include all **calculations**, as well as any charts, graphs or tables.

Summarize your data in a clear, organized way. Your data table is NOT your summary.

Please **show all your work** (calculations and formulas), not just the answers.

Remember to show all **units** too. For example: 0.00023**g** or 0.124 **mL**

Include these reflections: What did you learn from your data? Did you meet your objective? Did you have any difficulties? What did you find interesting in this experiment?

REFERENCES: List the book(s) you used to assist you during this experiment. Don't forget the Title should be underlined. Include author, publisher, and copyright date.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: As a courtesy, this is the time to thank everyone who helped you with the experiment - **your partner(s) and your instructor**.

REVIEW QUESTIONS: Answer all review questions found at the end of each handout or in the textbook as assigned.

Schedule: Prepare all sections through the **procedure** prior to coming to class each week. The other sections will be completed during and after each experiment. The reports can be turned in either that same class period, **or** at the beginning of next week's class. Points will be deducted from late or incomplete reports turned in **after** next week's class.