



This handout provides information about how to properly format your lab notebook.

Lab Notebook Format Guidelines

Purpose: The purpose of this handout is to explain how to properly format your lab notebook.

General Notes: You will not be required to set up your lab notebook for all labs. For some labs, you will only need to set up some sections. Always follow the instructions on the unit lab handout.

Sections

- Heading
- Hypothesis
- Materials
- Procedure
- Data Collection
- Results

Information on what to include in each section

Heading

- Date
- Unit
- Experiment: "Name of Experiment"

Materials

- The materials should be in a vertical list
- They should be specific to what you use

Hypothesis

- The hypothesis will usually be stated in "if... then..." format
- Sometimes, you will have multiple hypotheses
- Use future tense

Procedure

- Summarize the procedure



Data Collection

- Often, you will need to prepare a table(s) before coming to class

Results and/or Conclusions

- Usually these sections will be completed entirely in class
- You must number all of the questions that are assigned on the lab handout. You do not need to re-write the question.

Example Lab Notebook Set-up

Date: _____

Unit: *Unit x*

Experiment: _____

Hypothesis

If we _____, then _____

Materials

- *Bullet pointed list*
- *Specific to what you used*

Data Collection

Table title (when applicable)

Variable	1 st measurement	2 nd measurement	Calculation
1X			
2X			
3X			

Results

1. *This section is usually completed in class.*
2. *All questions are numbered with the same numbers as the lab handout.*
3. *Unless otherwise specified, all questions are answered in complete sentences.*

Conclusions

1. *This section is usually completed in class.*
2. *All questions are numbered with the same numbers as the lab handout.*
3. *Unless otherwise specified, all questions are answered in complete sentences.*