

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period # \_\_\_\_\_

## Lab Report

**Step 1:** Review all of your data- tables, graphs, drawings, notes.

**Step 2:** Write one sentence summarizing the overall findings of your experiment. This will help you to understand the findings and will be helpful when you write the results section of your lab report.

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**Step 3:** If your teacher says it is okay ask other students in the lab about their findings. Write down any differences. What are possible reasons for the differences?

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## PostLab: writing your lab report

The PostLab is a guide for writing lab reports. You will begin by describing in writing the **Materials and Methods** you used and then your **Results**. You will use the Materials, Methods and Results to write an **Introduction** that establishes a context for the lab, a way of understanding what is significant or important about this lab.

## Section One

### Methods: Describing the lab procedure

Write one paragraph describing the procedure you followed during this lab. Make sure to use enough detail about your materials and methods that someone else could repeat your procedure.

*Hint: Refer to directions, your lab handout(s), the textbook and any notes you took during the lab.*

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## Section Two

### Results: Making sense of your data for yourself and others

**Step 1:** Finish or create any tables, graphs or diagrams that will help you visualize your lab data.

**Step 2:** Write a one-sentence caption under each visual: table, graph or diagram. Your sentence should state the variable(s) represented in the visual.

**Step 3** Review all the data from your experiment. Look at all your visuals. Summarize the main finding of the lab in one sentence.

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## Section Three

### Introduction: Establishing a context for the lab

In the **introduction** you will show in writing why the lab is significant, or important. You will write what you are learning about science by doing this lab. You will be establishing a context for the lab.

**Step 1:** Write one sentence clearly stating what **scientific concept** the lab is about.

*Hint: Look at your handouts and textbook.*

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**Step 2:** Write one sentence clearly stating the **purpose** of the lab. What did you learn about the scientific concept (your answer to step 1) by completing the lab?

*Hint: Look at your handouts and textbook.*

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**Step 3:** Write a paragraph. First, state your hypothesis clearly. Revise your original hypothesis, "The hypothesis for this lab was..."; "My hypothesis was..."; or "We predicted that..."

Explain how you used your understanding of the scientific concept of the lab to make a prediction about the outcome of the lab. Make it clear how you came to your hypothesis.

Finish the paragraph by writing the independent and dependent variables used in the lab.

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## Section Four

# Discussion: Interpreting the results of the lab

**Step 1:** State in one sentence or two whether the results from the lab procedure support your hypothesis

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**Step 2:** Identify data from your lab that led you to either support or reject your hypothesis. Refer to the visual representations of your data as evidence to back up your judgment about the hypothesis.

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**Step 3:** Using your understanding of the scientific concept of this lab, explain in one paragraph or more why the results did or did not support your hypothesis.

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**Step 4:** Additional discussion: (1) problems or errors in lab procedure; (2) how your findings compare to other students'; (3) suggestions for improving the lab.

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