Grade 8 How to Write a Lab Report

**Rules of Writing a Lab Report**

* Should be done in *blue* or *black* ink. The lab report can be typed.
* All lines made for the report (underlining or drawn graphs) must be made with a *ruler* or *straightedge*
* Each student will write up their own lab and they will be turned in individually
* The lab report should be done neatly and easy to read

**Lab Report**

A lab report should have all of the following sections. Some sections are no more than a sentence, but others may be lists, paragraphs, or tables and graphs.

**Purpose (or Question)**

* Write down the purpose of the lab, what you are trying to determine
* This should be done in one sentence
* Can be written as a question

**Hypothesis**

* This is an educated guess as to what you think will happen or result in
* This is NOT a question, it is a statement that includes your prediction
* You do not have to be right, it is OK to be wrong in this part
* Do not provide any reasons of why you think you will get that answer, that will be taken care of later
* *Example: I think that playing with puppies will decrease my heart rate and looking at potatoes will increase my heart rate.*

**Materials**

* List all the materials and things needed in the experiment
* Use bullet point list

**Procedure**

* Write down step by step instructions used to perform the experiment. A person should be able to do the exact same thing you did without having to think about it.
* Number each step separately (like a recipe)

**Observations**

* This is the recording of data or information gathered while doing the experiment
* It can be done as notes, tables, graphs, or sketches.

**Analysis**

* Will be one or two paragraphs
* After gathering the data, this section is for finding out what happened and making some correlations as to possible reasons why it happened.
* This will include answering questions about the experiment or interpreting the results.
* *Example: While looking at potatoes Bob’s heart rate was 68 beats per minute. His resting heart rate was 83 beats per minute. Looking at potatoes clearly decreases a person’s heart rate. It probably does this because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …*

**Conclusion**

* One paragraph
* First state whether your hypothesis was correct or not
* Secondly prove or disprove your hypothesis by using your data
* *Example: The hypothesis that looking at potatoes will increase your heart rate was incorrect. It was shown in the experiment that looking at potatoes made the subject have a lower heart rate than their resting heart rate.*
* Discuss some possible inconsistencies or errors that may have affected the experiment. List at least two possible errors. **There is no such things as No Errors**
* Wrap up the report, make sure to clearly state the end results