

## Format for Science Lab Reports

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First and Last Name

Period

Date

\* Use Roman Numerals (I, II, III, etc.)

- I. Title:** This clearly communicates the question or problem investigated and generates interest in the reader
- II. Purpose:** Statement that explains what might be discovered by conducting the experiment  
Example: "To discover which of the 3 paper towels purchased at Safeway will absorb the greatest amount of water."
- III. Background Information/Research:** Research important aspects of the experiment that allow for an educated prediction or hypothesis.
- IV. Hypothesis:** An educated statement, predicting what might happen during the investigation and why it might happen  
Example: "Bounty will absorb the greatest amount of water because it has the most textured surface."
- V. Materials:** A complete list (include quantity) of materials required to perform the experiment
- VI. Methods:** Number and concisely state the steps necessary to perform your experiment and how to use the equipment. These steps should be written in the student's own words and usually are not more than 10 steps.
- VII. Results:** Communicate your findings and/or data, by using the following:
  - A. DATA TABLE:** Make a clearly labeled table that displays the measurements (**quantitative data**) and/or **qualitative** statements regarding what was observed during your experiment. Make sure to include a caption that explains exactly what your table is showing. *Don't forget your units of measurement!*
  - B. GRAPH:** Any **quantitative** data (numerical) must be represented in a graph. Students choose at least ONE of the following:
    - 1) Bar Graph: used to show comparisons
    - 2) Line Graph: used to showing change over time
    - 3) Pie Chart: used to show parts of a whole
  - C. LABELED ILLUSTRATION / PHOTO:** illustrates the experiment somehow
- VIII. Conclusion and Discussion:** In general, a statement that ties everything together. The paragraph should **answer** whether or not the data support the hypothesis. This includes restating your hypothesis. Also, **explain** any trends or patterns, **using specific data** or **results** to back up your statements. **State any possible sources of error** in the experimental design and/or execution. Finally, discuss how this experiment is relevant or important to society.
- IX. New Question/Further Research:** Write one question that was raised during the experiment that could now be realistically investigated. Will it be helpful to science? Should further experiments be conducted?
- IX. Bibliography:** Include sources that were referenced throughout the process of designing, conducting, and analyzing the experiment. List them in the correct format.