

Lab Report Guidelines 5th / 6th Grade

Refer to these guidelines when writing your lab reports. These guidelines should assist you as you do your experiment and record your data and observations. The parts must be in this order. (This is the order that they are done in the experiment.)

Parts of a Lab report:

Question: What is this experiment about? What are you trying to discover? The question you write in this section must be specific, focusing on an exact idea. This part of the report is often called the *Purpose*.

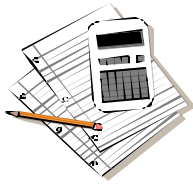
Hypothesis: This is where you make a statement saying what you think will be the result of your experiment. This is an educated guess based on what you already know. This also needs to be specific and exact. Your experiment will test the hypothesis to see if it is true (proven) or not. Your hypothesis must be testable.

Materials: List the items you use for the experiment, including the product names. Be specific in the amounts needed and used, as this may affect the outcome of the experiment. This is like the list of ingredients for a recipe. Put this in list form.

Procedure: This is like the directions of a recipe; it is a step by step of how to do the experiment. Someone completely unfamiliar with the subject should be able to read the procedure and be able to repeat the experiment. Everything should be kept the same each time the experiment is done. This is called “controlling the variable”

Results – Observations and Data: You need to record all observations that you make during the experiment. This should be detailed descriptions of what you saw happening during the experiment. You do not tell why you think something happened, just what you observed. Changes and patterns should also be recorded. Data is the numerical result of your experiment. This is often shown in a graph or chart to make the information clearer.

Conclusion: What did you discover? This is the answer to the original question. This is where you tell if your hypothesis was correct or not and **WHY** you have come to that conclusion. Your answer must be based on the results of the experiment, not on your opinion or what you may have wanted or expected to happen. You cannot just repeat your results, but you use them to explain what happened and what you have discovered. Tell about something that you learned by doing the lab. Talk about any possible mistakes that could have been made. Does this experiment lead you to any other questions?



This is a sample page of how a lab report should be set up. You will need more or less space depending on your experiment. Do not use this page to hand in.



Question (Purpose):

Hypothesis:

Materials:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____ **etc.**

Procedure:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____ **etc.**

Results:

Observations:

Data:

Conclusion:
