



WRITING A LABORATORY REPORT

Purpose

A **practical report (laboratory report, scientific report, field report)** is a report on some practical research or experiment you have undertaken in the laboratory or the field. The report is highly structured under headings such as: title, author, abstract, introduction, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion, references and appendices

Structure

Title	Abstract	Object	Theory	Procedure	Apparatus	Data	Sample calculations	Results	Discussion	Conclusions
				Method						
Tell the reader the topic of the report   1. Name of author(s)  2. Date  3. Title of lab	A <b>brief synopsis</b> of the whole lab report, including  1. <b>theory</b> 2. <b>procedure</b>  3. <b>results</b> 4. <b>conclusions</b>  5. <b>discussion</b>  It should be no more than a <b>short paragraph</b>	A <b>sentence or two</b> about what <b>the overall purpose of lab</b> is.	Provide enough <b>background</b> to the reader so they will know the <b>context</b> and <b>purpose</b> of the experiment   A <b>statement</b> concerning 1. <b>the laws</b>  2. <b>guiding principles</b>  governing the phenomenon under investigation	A <b>detailed description</b> of 1. <b>the method</b> used in the lab, including  2. what <b>measurements</b> were taken  2. <b>how often</b>  3. at <b>what times</b> they were taken	A <b>list of the items</b> used to perform the experiment. This can also include  1. <b>line drawings</b> of items that are less common,  - providing a <b>title for each drawing</b>	An <b>account of the measurements taken</b>  1. These measurements are <b>typically given in tables or graphs</b>	If you are <b>using complex mathematics</b> for your data, you should  1. <b>display those calculations</b>  so that the reader can see how figures were arrived at	A <b>summary</b> of findings,  1. what the <b>lab procedure</b>  2. <b>data</b> produced	An <b>interpretation of the results.</b>  <b>Explain the significance</b>  One way of proceeding is to  1. <b>go back</b> to the <b>Theory and Object</b> sections of the report  2. <b>discuss the results</b> in terms of the guiding principles and laws and the purpose of the lab.	This section deals with what the results mean   1. A <b>summary of findings</b>  2. interpretations  3. <b>State the significance or implications</b> of the experimental findings  4. areas of <b>future research</b>

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## Academic Language

### Academic words for reporting and connecting ideas

#### To introduce an additional idea

in addition, another reason/ aspect/example, furthermore, moreover, besides, also

#### To introduce an opposite idea or contrast

On the other hand, in contrast, in spite of, Although, still, nonetheless, instead, compare this with, alternatively, otherwise, on the contrary, rather

#### To give an example

For example, for instance, an example of this is, a further instance of this is,

#### To list ideas in order of time

First, first of all, first and foremost, second, more important, most important, more significantly, above all, most of all, concurrently, an additional

#### To introduce an explanation or make a stronger statement

In fact, indeed

#### To introduce a result

Accordingly, as a result, as a consequence, consequently, for these reasons, hence, therefore, thus

#### To point to evidence

It can be seen that, the evidence is that, in support of this

#### To make a tentative statement

Studies suggest that, perhaps, it would seem that, it tends to be the case that, studies indicate

### Hedging Expressions

It should be the case that..... Viewed in this way.....

It might be suggested that.... There is every hope that...

It may be possible to obtain.... It is important to develop....

It is useful to study..... It is not known whether

One cannot exclude from..... It is/it is not difficult to conclude from...

#### References

Morley-Warner, T. (2009). Academic writing is...: A guide to writing in a university context. Sydney, Australia: CREA publications.

Redman, P. (2006). Good essay writing (3rd ed.) London, England: Open University Press.

Oshima, A. & Hogue, A. (1981) Writing Academic English (2nd ed.) United States of America: Addison-Wesley Publishing.

## Discipline Examples

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## Useful Links

Manchester Phrasebank

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/classifying-and-listing/>

Describing Quantities

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/describing-quantities/>

Comparing and Contrasting

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/compare-and-contrast/>

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