

## Lab Report Guidelines

Lab reports are a reflection of what you have investigated, learned, and produced in the laboratory exercise. The report should tell the reader what the purpose of the lab was in a clear, concise and precise manner, but you'll also notice that they seem quite redundant – this is on purpose! You want to stress certain aspects of your write-up, specifically the points that are most important for you to convey to your reader.

The format of your lab reports should follow this form:

**Title** – what is the lab about?

**Introduction** – In general terms, what was the purpose of the lab? What question/hypothesis did you answer and why is that answer important? How does the knowledge you gained help your understanding of physical phenomena? What equipment did you use and how did that equipment facilitate the purpose?

**Body** – This should include the method, what were the steps or what was the procedure that you followed while doing the lab? This is the section in which you would answer questions presented in the lab handout. This should also include any relevant observations and data collected and any relevant pictures, graphs, etc. The last part of this section should include a more detailed description of the final results.

**Conclusion** – This should reiterate the purpose of the lab, as well as a brief summary of the process followed. You should indicate what the final results were, as well as the reason for their importance. You also want to discuss the error in your measurements and the accuracy of your results.

**Grading** – Labs will be graded out of 50 points, based on the outline above, and points will be broken down roughly as follows (this may change slightly from lab to lab):

5 points:	Title/Introduction
35 points:	Body
	10 points: Method/Procedure
	10 points: Data collected & Observations
	10 points: Answers to questions & Calculations
	5 points: Results
5 points:	Conclusion
5 points:	Spelling and Grammar