

A Few General Comments on Lab Reports Based on 2011 Students

(NOTE: Students tend to make the same mistakes again and again)

1. Quantify; do not use qualitative words such as very, pretty, near, large, ...
2. Remember significant figures!
3. Do not call a table "figure". A table is a table and a figure is a figure.
4. Don't connect "dots", i.e., discrete data points with lines. Regress data.
5. Use "0" as a placeholder. Use "0.71" and not ".71"
6. Do not write  $2 \times 10^{-4}$ . Write it as  $2 \times 10^{-4}$ , Include units!
7. Place space between dimension and unit, i.e., write "20 m" and not "20m"
8. Include references (use for things that are not common knowledge). Use when you want the reader to be able to verify for himself/herself.
9. Make mention of appendixes, tables, figures, etc. in the main body. Don't simply "slap" them in place.
10. Know when to place things in an appendix and when not to do so.
11. Don't simply place figures, tables, and equations in the report without mention/use them in your conclusions. They must be numbered.
12. Follow the format for each report as specified in the laboratory assignment sheet, respecting the order in which the professor expects to see the different components of the report.
13. Each component of the report MUST START on a NEW PAPER. For report hard copy, DO NOT PRINT ON THE BACK PAGE!
14. Remember: The Datasheet includes ONLY RAW DATA. It is NOT MODIFIED!
15. The Worksheet is a modified version of the Datasheet and includes the necessary calculations from the sample calculations, including uncertainty analysis and regression information.
16. Each Student should SIGN the report