

General requirements for labs:

Presentation:

- I prefer typed labs, but where inconvenient (diagrams, making tables) handwriting is acceptable. The idea is that it must be neat and readable.
- They should be in chronological order; it should tell the story of the investigation. The sequence of labs is similar to that of any essay, but the parts are different. The writeup should follow the same logical sequence. First things first (like procedure, materials), second things second (data, then graphs), last things last (conclusion). (The graphs shouldn't show up before the data, because you couldn't make a graph until you had the data.)
- Typing should be at least 1.5 spaced. Single spacing is too cramped - I need space to comment.
- Put some effort into making your lab report/writeup look good. This is a paper you're presenting, and it should live up to the same standards as any paper. Use common sense. Make it look good.

Content:

- The elements of each particular writeup will differ from lab to lab, so we will generally discuss what I'm looking for you to hand in at the time. You must complete all parts of the lab as written or as discussed.
- Tables must have labels and units for each column.
- Graphs must be complete (properly formatted title, labels and units on axes, scales on axes, key if necessary)
- Conclusions/analysis should be in complete sentences and thoroughly discuss each of the points/questions you are asked to consider. More is generally better than less. But you must also be accurate in your analyses and explanations.

By handing in neat, ordered, well-presented labs that show effort in creation and discussion, your skills in creating worthwhile content will improve at the same time as your grade does.