

LABORATORY REPORT CONTENTS

The following is a list of the contents of a laboratory report. It is given in an outline form to help you see the order in which these components go.

I. QUESTION

This identifies the problem you are trying to solve.

II. RESEARCH

Background information on the problem—Use different sources to acquire more knowledge on the problem you are trying to solve.

III. HYPOTHESIS

It is *a possible solution to the problem*. This contains a prediction and an explanation or reason.

IV. THE EXPERIMENT

This is how you test whether or not your hypothesis is correct. The experiment section of your laboratory report needs to have the following:

A. List of materials

A bulleted list of the materials needed to do this experiment

B. Procedures

A numbered list of steps to follow to do this experiment. The steps must be concise, clear complete, and easy to follow.

C. Variables

1. *Independent Variable*—Item or condition being changed on purpose by the experimenter in the experiment. The ID is also known as the **experimental variable**.
2. *Dependent Variable*—Also known as the **measured variable**. This is what you measure to confirm that your independent variable is changing the result of the experiment.
3. *Controlled Variables*—A list of all the variables or conditions that must remain the same in every single group of you experiment, e.g., the same type of plant, etc.

D. Control Group—Identifies the only setting that does not have the independent variable.

E. Experimental Groups— All the groups or settings that contain the independent variable

V. RECORD AND ANALYZE DATA

This section includes all the data you collect during your experiment.

A. Data Tables—Use them to organize your data.

B. Graphs—Use them to show your data visually. They make the results easier to understand.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Final answer must agree with the results and the research. It must include numerical data to support your findings.

B. Explanation of results using information from your research section.

C. Accuracy problems are discussed (min. of 3)

D. Suggestions for future improvements are offered (min. of 3)

LABORATORY FORMAT

I. TITLE PAGE

- Title of the laboratory report
- Student information
- Class information
- Teacher's name—Mr. Mayorga

II. DOCUMENT FORMAT

- Fonts: Time New Roman, Gill Sans MT, candara, calibri or Arial
- Font size: 12 point
- Spacing: Double-space
- Margins: 1 inch margins (*all sides*)

III. LIST OF WORK CITED (OR BIBLIOGRAPHY)

- Must be located on a separate sheet of paper at the end of the report
- Must include a *minimum of 3 sources*—one of these sources is a book different from your textbook
- Must never be numbered; **don't number them!**
- Must never be bulleted; **don't use bullets for them!**
- **See reading language arts teacher for MLA format.**

IV. DUE DATE

- Consult with your teacher for due dates

V. GRADE

- Laboratory reports are worth a **test grade.**