Writing a Laboratory Report

When scientists perform experiments, they make observations, collect and analyze data, and formulate generalizations about the data. When you work in the laboratory, you should record all your data in a laboratory report. An analysis of data is easier if all data are recorded in an organized, logical manner. Tables and graphs are often used for this purpose.

A written laboratory report should include all of the following elements.

TITLE: The title should clearly describe the topic of the report.

PURPOSE: Write a statement to express the purpose of the lab.

MATERIALS: List all laboratory equipment and other materials needed to perform the experiment. **A diagram of the laboratory set up should also be included.**

PROCEDURE: Describe each step of the procedure so that someone else could perform the experiment following your directions. Write this objectively. Do this, do that. Do you say "we did this"

DATA: Includes the data you collected during the experiment. This can be a table of information.

RESULTS: Include in your report graphs and calculations made from the data collected. Be sure to have the equation of the line for your graph.

Explain what calculations you did for this project.

CONCLUSIONS: Record your conclusions at the end of your report.
Your conclusions should be an analysis of your collected data.
What does your data mean?
Was this the result you expected?
What could be done differently next time to better the results?

Reflect on the project
What was the most difficult part of the project?
What could have been done differently?