

Suggestions for Lab Report Writing:

1. **PURPOSE:** Write what is the main purpose of the experiment.
2. **INTRODUCTION:** Introduction of the “system”—what does “the system” look like and how does it behave. What is the importance of the experiment? What are relevant Physical Principles (how they will be implemented)? You can include drawings or schematics of the experiments. Important definitions and concepts should be included here.
3. **PROCEDURE:** How are we going to proceed? Write down all the steps in order you performed. Techniques (Diagrams).
4. **RESULTS and DISCUSSION:** The data, Tables and Graphs, Calculations if any with explanation, the results and their analysis. Do the results make sense? Brief explanation. Possible errors in data and how they can be eliminated.
5. **Summary:** An overview – Put together your main results avoiding repetition.

Guidelines

- You may use both sides of the page but leave adequate space on each page for your lab instructor's comments.
- Write legibly and proofread what you write.
- Computer output that you generate should be cut to size and taped in your lab notebook at the point where you need it in results.
- Use a straight edge to draw the lines.
- **Do not erase work or tear out pages from your lab notebook.** Rather, just neatly cross out any error and briefly indicate your reason for doing it.

Before leaving Lab:

You must complete your lab notes and have them reviewed by your lab instructor before leaving the lab. You may be asked to clarify some points. These corrections must be made before you leave the lab unless your instructor indicates that you can make them later. **Be sure that your instructor has signed your lab notebook and recorded the completion of lab before you leave.**

Since lab period is limited you should watch the time closely and ask your instructor for help whenever you encounter a problem. Do **not be afraid of making mistakes**, we do learn a lot by making mistakes.

If you miss a lab, arrange it at all possible to attend another lab section in the same week. Because of the interactive format of these labs, making up a lab alone will be a poor substitute for being there. If you miss a lab for any reason, you must contact me (Tariq.gilani@millersville.edu or 872-3291) as soon as possible to make it up.

Tariq H. Gilani