

AP Chemistry Labs

A laboratory notebook is required for all students in AP Chemistry. It will serve as a record of your lab work. The appropriate lab notebook: 1 or 2-subject covered spiral notebook.

The purpose of your lab notebook is to record all data, observations, thoughts and questions that allow you to understand and explain the purpose and results of the lab experiment. Be sure that the quality of your work is clear to anyone who might read your notebook.



GUIDELINES FOR A LAB NOTEBOOK

1. Most labs are posted on www.molelady.com and you can print them out for lab. When you glue sections from your print-out, trim them and put them in neatly. Graphs will be computer-generated and then trimmed and glued in.
2. A TABLE OF CONTENTS should be the 1st few pages. (TITLE of EXPERIMENT, DATES, PAGES, GRADE)
3. To participate in lab, you must have your prelab/lab writeup in class.
4. Write with BLUE/ BLACK ballpoint ink (eraseable pens can be used too). Erasures can be made, but sparingly, please. You may draw a single line through your mistake/material you want deleted.
5. Have appropriate margins (1 in - top, bottom, left, right); write only on the front side of pages; skip lines in between each section of lab report; should not contain vague words, slang, etc.)
6. Turn your lab notebook in by putting a binder clip over all old labs or electronically through www.turnitin.com.
7. Record all observations directly into your notebook, NOT on scratch paper or on the lab handout. Data and results are often organized in tables. Include titles for all tables. Take data DURING Lab: Not after lab, on the assumption that it will be neater. Put data directly in your lab notebook rather than transcribing from your partner.
8. If a lab is done at home, then pictures must be included in your lab report.

What are the two kinds of lab formats?

FULL	Inquiry-based
TITLE	Title BQs & variables: What are my questions about this experiment? Hypothesis and Variables: Independent, Dependent, and Control
THEORY	TPS What do we need to do to answer the BQ?
PURPOSE/PROBLEM: What are you going to do? PRELAB (answered before implementing lab)	Data: What did I observe Quantitatively & Qualitatively when we completed tests and procedures?
PROCEDURE: How will we do this?	Calculations: What are the math formulas or chemical reactions needed to help solve the BQ?
DATA: What are you collecting? If no table is given, make one up before lab.	Results/Discussion: How will I answer post-lab questions?
CALCULATIONS	Reading/Reflection: Does your conclusion answer the BQ you thought of?
RESULTS/DISCUSSION	Error Analysis
REFERENCES	References
CONCLUSION: JUSTIFY! Why are the trends the way they are? How can your data be attributed to scientific principles?	

What is a Prelab or lab writeup?

When you arrive to class for lab, you should have already set up:

FULL: Title, theory, purpose/problem/prelab, summary of procedure (paste in given procedure from instruction sheet), Data (area or tables)

Inquiry-based: Title, BQs and variables, TPS, Data

GET A STAMP!