

Lab Report Structure Template

Section	Suggested guidance
Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarises the lab report - Tells you the purpose, methods, results and implications of the results - Often last part to be written
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background information like a mini scientific literature review • You make statements related to current literature backed up by references. • Explain what you are doing and why • Include aims and objectives/hypothesis • State briefly what model, theory, approach or method you have chosen to take and why, what kind of research this is etc
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes how you performed your experiment • A methods section might list equipment or software used, describe a set up or process, list steps you took, detail models, theories or parameters you employed, describe experiment design, outline survey questions or explain how you chose the sample you studied. • Reference the lab protocol used • Written in the past tense and in third person i.e. a sample was taken... • Written in a clear and detailed manner (reproducible)
Results	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your results and refer to all tables/figure legends in text • Highlight trends, correlations, any areas of significance • Data presented as graphs, tables, images etc. • Include figure legends and titles

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports results of any statistical tests and p-values •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure legends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above the figure, type the word Figure (bold) on the left - e.g. Figure 1. Number figures in the order in which they are mentioned in your paper. • Give each figure a brief but descriptive title. Italicise the figure title and use title case capitalisation (capitalise all major words but not those such as the, in, of, and, etc.). • A figure legend should explain any symbols used in the figure image. <p>How To Write A Figure Legend + Published Examples (thesavvyscientist.com) << See here for examples, scroll to bottom</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a table number and body in bold font - e.g. Table 1. • Number tables in the order in which they are mentioned in your report/ • Provide each table with a brief but descriptive title. use title case capitalisation (capitalise each major word but not words such as the, in, of, and, etc.).
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the results, their meaning and compare with existing literature • Comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how far the findings support your hypothesis, • the impact of any limitations • Recommendations • What gaps remain for further research?
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of research findings • Comment on significance and implications for broader research field

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a statement about the quality and validity of study • You're not adding new information, just summarising • Shortest part of report
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include full list of references used in lab report • The selection and use of relevant sources of information should be carefully considered (scientific articles) • The format of reference list and in-text citations should be given close attention also <p>Citation = (Burgess <i>et al.</i>, 2020)</p> <p>Full reference =</p> <p>Burgess, A. <i>et al.</i> (2020) 'Team-based learning: design, facilitation and participation,' <i>BMC Medical Education</i>, 20(S2). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-020-02287-y.</p> <p>*Example above is using the Harvard referencing style, use reference style in <i>your</i> university</p>
Appendix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can include supplementary information • Examples: definitions/glossary, raw data, additional figures/tables, consent forms, risk assessment forms, patient information sheet etc

Your turn!
**(use blank template below to plan your
next lab report)**

Section	Suggested guidance
Abstract	
Introduction	•
Methods	
Results	
Discussion	
Conclusion	

References	
Appendix	