

Writing a Physics Formal Lab Report

All labs must be typed! (12 font with distinguishable headings)

1. Cover page (see sample on next page)
2. Purpose
 - usually stated on the lab sheet; copy it
 - if not, write your own (1 or 2 sentences)
2. Hypothesis
 - predict the outcome of the experiment
3. Procedure
 - write "see lab sheet"
 - if there are major changes, you should note these here
4. Data Table
 - recopy your data table with correct information; headings, columns, rows, variables and units
5. Sample Calculations
 - show one calculation for obtaining each piece of data with formula, data, units, proper sig figs
6. Questions / Graphing
 - answer all questions from the lab sheet if they are given
 - if there are graphs, place them in this section
7. Discussion / Conclusion
 - this is a science report; DO NOT use personal pronouns
 - Ex. We found that there were scratches and nicks on the table which could cause the coefficient of friction to be different than before.
 - only observations and systematic errors can be discussed in this section. NO human error.
 - Systemic error: parallax, reaction time
 - answer the hypothesis of the lab. Be quantitative.
 - Ex. The velocity was -2.0 m/s for trial 1 with a percent difference...
8. Raw Data
 - staple the sheet of paper you wrote your data on during the lab to the VERY BACK of your report. It is always the last page!!

*** You will have 3 days to complete most labs (unless otherwise stated). If you are sick, the lab report must be emailed to my account before midnight of the date due. A hard copy must be submitted upon return to school. Weekends count as one day. If the lab report is late, 10% per day will be deducted.

Lab: Constant Velocity

Your name

Group members names

Date

Teacher name