TheLearningCentre
UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

WRITING A LABORATORY REPORT

Purpose

A **practical report (laboratory report, scientific report, field report)** is a report on some practical research or experiment you have undertaken in the laboratory or the field. The report is highly structured under headings such as: title, author, abstract, introduction, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion, references and appendices

Structure

Title	Abstract	Object	Theory	Method				Results	Discussion	Conclusions
				Procedure	Apparatus	Data	Sample calculations			
Tell the reader the topic of the report 1.Name of **author(s)** 2. **Date** 3. **Title of lab**	A **brief synopsis** of the whole lab reoport, including 1. **theory** 2.**procedure** 3. **results** 4.**conclusions** 5.**discussion** It should be no more than a **short paragraph**	A **sentence or two** about what **the overall purpose of lab** is.	Provide enough **background** to the reader so they will know the **context** and **purpose** of the experiment A **statement** concerning 1. **the laws** 2. **guiding principles** governing the phenomenon under investigation	A **detailed description** of 1. **the method** used in the lab, including 2. what **measurements** were taken 2. **how often** 3. at **what times** they were taken	A **list of the items** used to perform the experiment. This can also include 1. **line drawings** of items that are less common, - providing a **title for each drawing**	**An account of the measurements taken** 1. These measurements are **typically given in tables or graphs**	**If you are using complex mathematics** for your data, you should 1. **display those calculations** so that the reader can see how figures were arrived at	A **summary** of findings, 1. what the **lab procedure** 2. **data** produced	An **interpretation of the results**. **Explain the significance** One way of proceeding is to 1. **go back** to the **Theory and Object sections** of the report 2. **discuss the results** in terms of the guiding principles and laws and the purpose of the lab.	This section deals with what the results mean 1. A **summary of findings** 2. interpretations 3. **State the significance** or **implications** of the experimental findings 4. areas of **future research**

Academic Language

Academic words for reporting and connecting ideas

To introduce an additional idea
in addition, another reason/ aspect/example, furthermore, moreover, besides, also
To introduce an opposite idea or contrast
On the other hand, in contrast, in spite of, Although, still, nonetheless, instead, compare this with, alternatively, otherwise, on the contrary, rather
To give an example
For example, for instance, an example of this is, a further instance of this is,
To list ideas in order of time
First, first of all, first and foremost, second, more important, most important, more significantly, above all, most of all, concurrently, an additional
To introduce an explanation or make a stronger statement
In fact, indeed
To introduce a result
Accordingly, as a result, as a consequence, consequently, for these reasons, hence, therefore, thus
To point to evidence
It can be seen that, the evidence is that, in support of this
To make a tentative statement
Studies suggest that, perhaps, it would seem that, it tends to be the case that, studies indicate

Hedging Expressions
It should be the case that..... Viewed in this way.....
It might be suggested that.... There is every hope that...
It may be possible to obtain.... It is important to develop....
It is useful to study..... It is not known whether
One cannot exclude from..... It is/it is not difficult to conclude from...

Discipline Examples

BZ1001

https://www.jcu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/122917/jcuprd1_073064.pdf

Useful Links

Manchester Phrasebank
http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/classifying-and-listing/

Describing Quanities

http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/describing-quantities/

Comparing and Contrasting

http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/compare-and-contrast/

References
Morley-Warner, T. (2009). Academic writing is...: A guide to writing in a university context. Sydney, Australia: CREA publications.
Redman, P. (2006). Good essay writing (3rd ed.) London, England: Open University Press.
Oshima, A. & Hogue, A. (1981) Writing Academic English (2nd ed.) United States of America: Addison-Wesley Publishing.