

408L Lab Reports

Lab Reports:

- Must be neat, you are partly graded on grammar, neatness, and organization.
- ***If your data/results are wrong, your lab will not be graded. It will be returned to you and you will have one week to turn in a corrected copy, with a 10% penalty.***
- Must contain the following sections, outlined and stapled in the following order:
 - I. Typed cover page on top containing the following information:
(*Do not put your name on any page other than the cover page.*)
 - Title of lab (be creative)
 - Your name
 - Lab day & time
 - Lab Instructor's name
 - II. Purpose
 - One or two sentences
 - What did we do/measure & how did we do it/measure it?
 - III. Results/Postlab questions
 - Answers to questions numbered, in order, and easy to identify.
 - Keep answers short! Most questions can be answered thoroughly in 2-3 sentences.
 - Drawings are encouraged for explaining answers.
 - For calculations, show all of your work, starting with the general equation(s) you are using.
 - Drawings and calculations can be hand-written, scanned in (or submitted as a hardcopy, though this is not preferred).
 - If a question asks you to compare two or more values, include a table of the values along with your discussion.
 - Graphs:
 - Make sure all text (axes labels, legend) is large enough to be legible.
 - If printing in black and white, make sure that data points from different trials are distinguishable by using different symbols or line styles.
 - Every graph should have a title, axes labels (with units), and a legend.
 - Always include units in graphs, charts, and written responses.
 - IV. Data
 - Print out your Excel data file. Because there are large quantities of data, we will not be asking for the entire file. For most labs the first page will suffice. For some, we will want the first and last page. This will be specified during lab.
 - If you used formulas in your Excel file, print out the data such that the formulas are printed.
 - V. Closing Paragraph
 - Short paragraph.
 - This is NOT a conclusion based on the data.
 - Take-home message. What did you get out of this lab? Feedback to Lab Instructor.

Answering assigned questions:

- ***Lab reports should be done completely on your own and written in your own words. Unauthorized collaboration is plagiarism and will result in a grade sanction and a report sent to the Office for Student Conduct. (See the lab policies for more information.)***
- Information for answering questions can be drawn from lab data, lab and lecture notes, textbooks, or other scientific reference material. Do not copy material from any reference unless you cite it properly.
- Be thorough, always explain “why”, and show that you understand. Write as if you are explaining it to someone who has no prior knowledge of the subject matter (i.e. your parents). Do not assume that anything is obvious.
- Each question is graded individually, so answer each question completely. Don't assume that if you

already gave an explanation when answering another question that you don't need to explain it again if it is relevant to the question.
Use scientific language and your knowledge of physiology.