

Graphing Rules

1. All graphs are done on graph paper (except circle graphs which may also be done on unlined paper).
2. All graphs are drawn with a *pencil*.
3. All lines are drawn with a ruler, circles with a compass, and angles with a protractor.
4. Orient the paper portrait direction. The x and y axes are drawn onto the graph paper indented 2.5 - 3 cm. Each graph will be numbered so that it takes the entire piece of graph paper.
5. Each axis is labeled with a variable name.
The x-axis is the independent variable.
The y-axis is the dependent variable.
6. Every variable that is a measurement has its unit listed behind it in parentheses.
Strength (number of pennies held)
Length (meters)
7. Axes are numbered starting from 0, 0 in the corner. Number so that the entire paper is used.
No axis breaks are allowed in science
8. Numbering must be consecutive starting from zero and be equidistant.
9. Numbers for line graphs are placed *over the line* on the graph paper.
Bars on a bar graph are labeled *in the space* where the bar occurs.
10. Data points should be drawn very small and *circled*.
11. When the data points are connected, the line is drawn with a ruler from the outside of a circle to the outside of the next circle. A line of best fit is straight and not drawn through the inside of the circles that it passes through.
12. Add an appropriate title to the top.
13. Draw the data table onto the graph. Include only the data that is graphed.
14. If the graph is a scatter plot, draw the slope brackets from the line of best fit to each axis and then show the math for solving the slope of your line.
15. Neatness counts. Make your work look professional.