

Lab Report Structure

Section	Suggested Structure
Abstract	<p>A good abstract summarises the report in one paragraph and generally answers the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>What was the purpose of the lab?</i> ● <i>What materials did the researchers use?</i> ● <i>What tests did the researchers perform?</i> ● <i>What result(s) were found, and what are the implications of the results?</i>
Introduction/ Background/ Theory	<p>Define the subject of the report. Outline the scientific purpose(s) or objective(s) and give the reader sufficient background to understand the rest of the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Why was this study performed?</i> (Answers to this question may be derived from observations of nature, practice, or from the literature) ● <i>What knowledge already exists about this subject?</i> (Review the literature, showing historical development of an idea and including confirmations, conflicts, and gaps in existing knowledge) ● <i>What is the specific purpose of the study?</i> (Describe the specific hypotheses and experimental design pertinent to investigating the topic)
Materials and methods	<p>This section describes in detail the test(s) you conducted and the methods you used to set up, calibrate, and run the equipment. Include any pertinent illustrations of the equipment used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Include only what is necessary to recreate the experiment</i> ● <i>Include enough detail about the procedure so that it can be understood, but not so much that there is an excess of unnecessary detail</i> ● <i>Write using the third person to keep your focus on the subject</i>
Results	<p>This section summarises the major findings of your lab tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Include values you calculate and/or measure</i> ● <i>When needed, represent your data in a table or a graph</i> ● <i>Always introduce your graphs or tables in the text prior to their appearance</i>
Discussion	<p>Explain what your results mean, and examine their implications. Discuss any assumptions you made and indicate how these assumptions affected your results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aims – were they met? ● What can be concluded – implications? ● What are the limitations?
Conclusion	<p>The conclusion offers you an opportunity to provide new perspectives on your experiment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include a brief (two to three sentences) summary of the report ● Offer recommendations or discuss future implications
References	<p>Include a full list of references used to write your report.</p>
Appendices	<p>Might include one or more of the following: Definitions, raw data, figures, list of Equipment, sample calculations, theoretical models used, software models, etc.</p>



Lab Report Template

Section	Draft
Abstract	
Introduction/ Background/ Theory	
Materials and methods	
Results	
Discussion	
Conclusion	
References	
Appendices	