How to Write a Lab Report

APA Style

Components of Lab Report

Title Page
Abstract
Introduction
Method
Results
Discussion
References

Title Page

Page number
> Right justified

Title of Lab Report
> Briefly and accurately describe the experiment
> - Three spaces below the top margin
> - Centered, bold, title type

Name of authors
- Two spaces below title
- First, Middle Initial, Last

Department

Course Number and Name

Professor Name

Due date

Abstract

Short summary of lab experiment. Purpose of abstract is to provide an overview of the important ideas, research questions/hypothesis, methods and key findings. Usually write this page last.

On its own page after the title page

Title: Abstract

Centered, bolded

Do not tab

150-250 words → no more, no less

Keywords-Title is tabbed, italicized, and a list of key words.

Introduction

On a new page after the abstract

Title page's title centered on this page, bold faced

Contains

Research question/hypothesis

Purpose of study

Previous research/explaining variables

Brief discussion on how study was conducted

Answers the questions

What is my paper about?

Why is it important?

What have others written about my topic?

What is already known about my topic?

Method **(centered and bold)**

Describes the details of the research design → how you conducted the study. Details are important!

Answers the question
  How did I design my research and conduct my investigation?

Components of section
  Participants (left justified and bold): details of participant pool (quantity, location, age, gender, etc.)
  Materials (left justified and bold): what was used to conduct the experiment? (survey, questions, timer, etc.)
  Procedure (left justified and bold): step by step instructions on how the experiment was conducted
  Variables (left justified and bold): independent/dependent variable descriptions.

Results (centered and bold)

Analysis of data. Focus is on the data and any other analysis you have done.

Determine type of research
   Qualitative: descriptive
   Quantitative: statistically significant relationships between variables via #s

Answers the question
What significant relationships exist between the important variables in my study?

Data
Present data in table or figure → makes reading info easier (label)

Discussion **(centered and bold)**

Components
 Interpret the results in conjunction with your hypothesis
 Connecting your results to previous literature/studies
 Decide what changes need to be made in the future
 Discuss unexpected findings and why they happened
Answers the questions
 What do the findings or the data in my study mean?
 Was my sample adequate?
 Were my measures precise and appropriate?
 Were there any problems in my research design?
 If so, how might someone design a better study?
 Can the results of my study be generalized?
 Are there still questions that can be answered on the topic?

References **(centered and bolded)**

Where you list your source information

Title = Reference if just one source
Title=References if two or more sources

On its own page after the text of the document

List is alphabetized

First line of citation is left justified, subsequent lines indented

Figure/Table

Figure/Table title: Above figure/table
Note (caption): Below figure/Table

Figure caption is a brief description of what the data is

Usual APA Paper Parameters

Double spaced throughout the entire paper

Times New Roman Font

Font size = 12 point

1 inch margins

Clear, concise and direct content

 AKA no flowery language

Lab Report Grading

Category	Points
Performance of Experiment ● Correct # of Subjects ● Follow procedure	10
Following Ethical Guidelines ● Informed consent signed (If necessary) ● Anonymity in documents	5
Data Collection ● Every member is writing down their data	5
Content of Paper ● Each section and subsection of paper requirements are being filled	50
Proper APA citation	10
Style/Grammar	10
Group Rating (Avg of group members' scores)	10
Total	100 points