Lab Report Format

Name
Partner’s Name(s)
Teacher Name
Class – Bell
Date (ex 9 September 2008)

Title

Purpose: Always begins with To followed by a verb…has two parts (two statements beginning with To)...usually explains your goal within the lab and how the lab connects to the curriculum…this part can be identical to your partner(s)

Procedure: Tells what you did in the lab…should be complete enough to hand to a student who missed the lab day and a couple of days before…typically a numbered list of steps…this part can be identical to your partner(s)

Data/Observations: Lists anything that you directly observed or measured in the lab…no calculations go here...no predictions go here...all data must have units...data should usually be in a data table drawn with a ruler...this part can be identical to your partner(s)

Calculations: All math (even the most simple subtraction) goes here...all calculations must be fully laid out with answers reported to the correct level of precision and with units...some labs won’t have this section, in which case, don’t even write the Calculation heading...this part must be your work and may not be similar to any other student’s work

Questions: Write the questions and then the answers...not every answer must be in a complete sentence...some questions may not actually end in questions marks but may just instruct you to do or calculate something...if a question asks for a calculated answer, show the work in Calculations labeled as being for question # whatever, then just write the answer in this section...this part must be your work and may not be similar to any other student’s work

Conclusion: This is the important part...this is where you explain whether you got what the lab was trying to teach you...whether or not you met the purpose...state whether you met the two purposes or not and what you found...then provide a piece of evidence to prove that you met each purpose.

An example...if you were supposed to predict the density of germanium and show a pattern on the periodic table, you might write...

I predicted that the density of germanium would be 6.45 g/mL. This is shown on my graph in the questions section. The pattern that I found on the periodic table is that the densities of the elements increased as the elements went down the periodic table. This makes sense because I understand that elements in the same column should have similar properties.

Pet peeve here...do not ever write In conclusion or By doing this lab...I already know your conclusion is in conclusion...