

Comprehensive Guide: Freelance Data Science Written Report

Deliverable Goals

- Communicate findings clearly and persuasively.
- Demonstrate your technical expertise in a digestible way.
- Guide the reader toward data-driven decisions.

1. Report Structure

Here's a structure tailored for a balanced, insight-rich, visual-forward report for a semi-technical audience:

1. Title Page

- Project title
- Your name / company / client
- Date

2. Executive Summary (½ - 1 page)

- A non-technical summary of the problem, key findings, and recommended actions.
- Use bullet points or short paragraphs.

Tip: Write this *last*, once you've done all the analysis.

3. Introduction / Problem Statement

- Business context
- Goals and questions the project aims to answer
- Why it matters to the client

4. Data Description

- Data sources: where the data came from (if public, link it)
- Scope of data: time range, size, features, granularity
- Data dictionary (optional): include in appendix or link to Markdown file

5. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

Break it down into logical sections, e.g.: - Demographics Overview - Trends Over Time - Category Comparisons - Missing Data & Anomalies

Each visualization should answer a question

Each figure should be followed by a 2-3 sentence interpretation: - What do we see? -

Why does it matter? - What could be causing it?

6. Feature Engineering (if applicable)

• Explain transformations and why you created specific features.

• Use examples: "Created visit_rate_per_week to normalize visit volume."

7. Predictive Modeling

Structure by model stages: 1. **Objective:** What you're predicting, why it's valuable. 2. **Model(s) tried:** Algorithms tested, how chosen. 3. **Training/testing strategy:** Cross-validation, time-based splits, etc. 4. **Performance metrics:** Accuracy, AUC, RMSE, etc.—**explain what these mean for a non-technical reader.** 5. **Feature importance:** Visuals + explain why those features matter.

8. Model Insights & Recommendations

- What do the model results suggest?
- Tie predictions back to the business question.
- Recommend concrete actions (if possible).

9. Limitations & Assumptions

- Be honest and transparent about:
 - Data bias or incompleteness
 - Model limitations
 - Causal inference vs correlation

This builds trust and shows professionalism.

10. Conclusion / Next Steps

- Recap major takeaways
- Recommend further analysis, system integration, or stakeholder actions

11. Appendices (Optional)

- Full model evaluation
- Alternate model results
- Data dictionaries or raw tables
- Code or repo link

Visual Best Practices

- Keep graphs clean and labeled (axes, legends, annotations).
- Use horizontal bar charts for ranked features.
- Line charts for time series; box plots for distributions.
- Highlight anomalies, trends, and comparisons.

• Use bold callouts or captions to highlight the story in each plot.

Visual-first, but insight-driven—don't drop a plot without an interpretation.

Tools & Tips

- **Jupyter Notebooks:** Great for prototyping and visual output. Use **nbconvert** to export clean HTML/PDF versions (hide code if desired).
- Google Docs/LibreOffice: Ideal for collaborative writing or offline reports.
- LaTeX: Use for polished PDF reports with lots of math/stats.
- Markdown + GitHub: Ideal for versioning + showing work in public repos.

Checklist Before Delivery

Item

Executive Summary speaks to the business need All plots include captions and interpretations Metrics are explained for a semi-technical reader Insights are clearly tied to project goals Recommendations are practical and data-driven Report is visual, scannable, and avoids jargon Code and notebook are clean and reproducible Appendix or GitHub links included (if needed)

Would you like a **template** in Markdown, Google Docs, or LaTeX to start your next report? I can generate one for you based on this structure.