

Grading rubric for formal lab reports

	Exceeds Standards	Meets Standards	Standards Not Met
Introduction	Describes theory in detail; indicates how the theory will be tested (15 pts)	Some theory is lacking and/or it's not clear how theory will be tested (10 pts)	Background is lacking important details (5 pts)
Methods	Clearly describes the experimental set-up and experiments to be conducted; uses a figure to help illustrate the experiment; may include manipulation of equations, if appropriate (15 pts)	Methodology is incomplete or reads like a recipe; not clear how the experiments relate to the theory to be tested (10 pts)	Includes some description but a reader unfamiliar with the lab may be unable to reproduce the experiment(s) (5 pts)
Results	Guides the reader through the key results; figures and tables are clearly labeled with captions, x- and y-labels, and units; does not include any interpretation of the results (30 pts)	All necessary data is presented but figures are poorly labeled; very little text to guide the reader through the results; some interpretation mixed in with the results (20 pts)	Missing data or contains data that is clearly incorrect; figures and tables are not labelled; no text to guide the reader (10 pts)
Discussion & Conclusions	Clearly summarizes key findings; compares theory to observations; includes discussion of sources of error <i>and</i> their impact on the data (25 pts)	Some key findings are missing or results not compared to theory; errors are mentioned but not discussed in the context of discrepancies between results and theory (15 pts)	Little to no interpretation; minimal discussion of errors (5 pts)
Composition	Report is easy to read; few grammatical mistakes; somebody unfamiliar with the experiments would understand everything that was done (15 pts)	Some grammatical mistakes or unclear wording, but generally easy to follow (10 pts)	Numerous grammatical mistakes and unclear passages; insufficient descriptions; somebody unfamiliar with the lab would not understand the report (5 pts)