**Common Lab Report Mistakes**

**Problems with Abstract**

* S/V disagreement in abstract
* Too much background in the abstract
* Failure to state specifications

**Problems with Introduction**

* Failure to begin introduction with purpose/scope of report (what & why)
* Failure to state specifications
* Confusion about where to talk about functionality of the circuit
* Wordy (or lack of) forecasting

**Problems with Circuit Analysis section**

* Failure to give overview of design tasks (how)
* Failure to introduce sections with topic sentences (what & why)
* Confusion about how to organize section

**Problems with Simulation section**

* Failure to mention simulation software
* Failure to state the purpose of simulation
* Failure to analyze graphs

**Problems with Experimental Implementation**

* Failure to open with final schematic (and to present your own schematic)
* Failure to introduce measuring equipment and explain how measurements were made

**Problems with Discussion section**

* Failure to open with one or two sentences describing main findings of lab
* Failure to include a comparison table
* Inadequate discussion of sources of error

**Problems with visual aids**

* Failure to use sandwich method for integrating equations, figures, tables
* Inclusion of oversized or poorly reproduced visuals
* Lack of specific figure/table titles
* Failure to put figure titles in sentence case
* Failure to clearly label axes
* Placement of table titles underneath rather than on top of table
* Failure to define variables
* Failure to cite borrowed visuals

**General problems**

* Use of first person (I/we) and second person (you) pronouns
* Comma splices and other grammatical errors (e.g., it’s its)
* Starting sentences with “This is” or “This was”
* Spelling units in text (e.g., 5 volts) rather than using unit symbols (e.g., 5 V)
* Story-telling (too much narration)