

Dear Evan:

Thank you for sharing your reference document and cover letter with me. Both pieces provided an interesting window into the world of chemistry, with which I am deeply unfamiliar.

The cover letter contained a few mechanical issues. There were a few awkward sentences that should be revised, but the overall justifications for your reference document were clear. You were brief and to-the-point, which I'm sure Dr. Lang would appreciate.

As for the reference document itself, I believe that your general concept is well-founded, but it requires certain refinements to be a user-friendly interface. I'm a fairly computer-savvy person, but after several minutes of fiddling with the excel document, I couldn't get the archive to accept my values without error. This error was also so ambiguous that I couldn't properly debug it.

There are also some other considerations that you should make:

- Consider the layout of your instructions. Center-aligned, wide paragraphs are immensely difficult to read. The human eye (at least in the West) is accustomed to reading left-aligned text in relatively thin columns (think about how textbooks normally break wide lines of information into columns). Applying this tactic to your instructions will be helpful.
- Consider breaking your instructions into distinct steps (1, 2, 3) to make them simpler to follow.
- Consider the colors you are using. Green suggests 'go,' which is useful for identifying the editable cells, but there are different shades of green. The green and greys here are very dark, which makes the black text overlay extremely difficult to read. Choosing a lighter color scheme will improve legibility.
- Consider including an example accepted row inside the instructions or below the input row. This will allow users to quickly input correctly-formatted data without having to check the tooltips retroactively.
- Increase type size. Again, this will improve legibility.

I hope you find these comments helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pine