HOW TO PREPARE A LAB REPORT

Lab reports must be written so that someone with no knowledge of your experiment can not only repeat it but check their results against yours.

1. ABSTRACT: A 2-3 line summary of the principle being tested and the main finding without too much detail.

2. PROCEDURE: Don't repeat the manual. In your own words, state how you did the experiment. If a crucial measurement was made using a particular brand of equipment, mention it. Strange results could come from manufacturer's fault.

3. DATA: Tabulate neatly in tables if applicable, all measurements recorded during the lab, with uncertainties and least counts of measuring apparatus.

4. ANALYSIS: Use formulas to analyze data. If graphs need to be drawn, draw them to scale, with axes clearly marked and labeled, with units. (More on graph drawing in a separate handout!) Perform uncertainty calculations, either using formulas or graphs.

5. CONCLUSIONS: Never use "human error", ever! Scientifically lay out all sources & possible errors coming from your exp't, report results with ± and % error values.