Lab Report Structure

Section	Suggested Structure
Abstract	A good abstract summarizes the report in one paragraph and generally answers the following questions: • *What was the purpose of the lab?* • *What materials did the researchers use?* • *What tests did the researchers perform?* • *What result(s) were found, and what are the implications of the results?*
Introduction/ Background/ Theory	Define the subject of the report. Outline the scientific purpose(s) or objective(s) and give the reader sufficient background to understand the rest of the report. • *Why was this study performed?* (Answers to this question may be derived from observations of nature, practice, or from the literature) • *What knowledge already exists about this subject?* (Review the literature, showing historical development of an idea and including confirmations, conflicts, and gaps in existing knowledge) • *What is the specific purpose of the study?* (Describe the specific hypotheses and experimental design pertinent to investigating the topic)
Materials and methods	This section describes in detail the test(s) you conducted and the methods you used to set up, calibrate, and run the equipment. Include any pertinent illustrations of the equipment used. • *Include only what is necessary to recreate the experiment* • *Include enough detail about the procedure so that is can be understood, but not so much that there is an excess of unnecessary detail* • *Write using the third person to keep your focus on the subject*
Results	This section summarizes the major findings of your lab tests. • *Include values you calculate and/or measure* • *When needed, represent your data in a table or a graph* • *Always introduce your graphs or tables in the text prior to their appearance*
Discussion	Explain what your results mean, and examine their implications. Discuss any assumptions you made and indicate how these assumptions affected your results. • Aims – were they met? • What can be concluded – implications? • What are the limitations?
Conclusion	The conclusion offers you an opportunity to provide new perspectives on your experiment. • Include a brief (two to three sentences) summary of the report • Offer recommendations or discuss future implications
References	Include a full list of references used to write your report.
Appendices	Might include one or more of the following: Definitions, raw data, figures, list of Equipment, sample calculations, theoretical models used, software models, etc.

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Section	Draft
Abstract	
Introduction/ Background/ Theory	
Materials and methods	
Results	
Discussion	
Conclusion	
References	
Appendices	