



Period: \_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. WRITING A LAB REPORT

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**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this experiment is to properly demonstrate all steps of the scientific method. Now that we've designed and conducted an experiment, your goal is to:

- Draw a conclusion
  - Communicate your conclusion
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The purpose of a lab report is to organize the information from your experiment and communicate this information in a clear manner. Scientists write lab reports so they or other scientists can repeat the experiment or test other hypotheses in new experiments.

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#### **DIRECTIONS:**

You must follow these directions exactly for full credit. Read them carefully!

#### **1. Complete your lab report individually.**

You are to complete all lab reports individually unless your teacher tells you otherwise. You will work in a group to fill out the proposal form, run the experiment, and gather data. The lab report is written after you complete these items with your group. *Each person in the group will have the same: question, hypothesis, procedures, and data. Each person in the group will develop their own graphs (if applicable) and write his/her own results paragraph and conclusion paragraph.* Each of us forms sentences and paragraphs very differently. It is obvious when information has been copied from one person to another. Any cheating/copying will result in a zero for everyone involved.

#### **2. Type all lab reports using an easily readable font style and size.**

All lab reports must be typed. A normal font style such as Times or Georgia or other easily readable font styles should be used. A normal font size should be used, such as 12. No font larger than 14 should be used on the report.

#### **3. Turn in lab reports on time.**

Lab reports will be docked 25% for each day they are late. Lab reports are a significant part of your overall grade, so they should be taken more seriously than a regular daily assignment.

#### 4. Use the following format and order when writing your lab report:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Lab: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** Be sure your question is specific and written as a question.

**Hypothesis:**

Be sure your hypothesis is specific and written in full sentences.

**Materials:**

Write all of the materials used during the experiment in a list. Be sure to list the amount of each material that was needed.

**Procedure:**

Write each step that a person would follow to complete the experiment. Be sure to number each step and write in the present tense. It is difficult to put too much detail in this section!

**Quantitative Data:**

Organize numerical data in a table with a specific title.

**Quantitative Graphs:**

All graphs should be titled and have labels on the axes (including units!). Graphs can be hand-drawn or computer generated. If hand drawn, reference them at this point in the report and attach them at the end.

**Qualitative Results:**

Summarize the significant data from your experiment in a paragraph. Focus on trends you see in the data. Do not draw conclusions yet, but simply restate the results in paragraph form.

**Conclusion:**

In paragraph format, state whether your data supported or failed to support your hypothesis. Give possible reasons for the difference between your hypothesis and the experimental results. Discuss unexpected results and how you could improve the experiment. Don't forget to discuss possible sources of error in your experiment.