Lab Report Format

**General Information**

The upper right hand corner of your lab report should look like this:

Your Name

Group Member Names

Date of lab

Class Period

Data tables and observations may be hand-written; procedure, analysis, and conclusion need to be typed. Use 12 pt font. Times New Roman, Cambria, Garamond and similar fonts are acceptable. Arial and other sans serif fonts are not. Lab reports should be double spaced or 1.5 spaced—**no single-spaced lab reports will be accepted**. All writing should be in the 3rd person except for the last paragraph.

**Format**

The title of this lab is “Factors that affect enzyme activity.” This title should be the first line of your lab report. Capitalize the first word only. The title should be centered but should not be underlined or in bold.

Purpose

This will be phrased in complete sentences. We will go over how to write the purpose as a class.

Procedure

While you performed your lab, you followed your handwritten procedure. You may have made changes to the procedure as you worked. For your lab report, you need to type up the procedure you actually used and followed. This section should have a materials list, safety precautions, and the steps you followed.

Observations and Data:

This section may be handwritten. It should include all of the data you collected during the lab as well as any observations you noted. When possible, data should be neatly organized in table format. If you know you made a mistake during the lab, or think you might have, this is the place to record it.

Analysis

Any calculations you made using your raw data should be in this section. Charts and graphs should also be in this section.

Conclusion

Each of the following areas needs to be addressed with its own paragraph:

* Summary of your results and how these results relate to the purpose
* Explanation of the possible sources of error and suggestions of modifications that might have improved the results
* Reflect on the process of writing and performing you own lab procedure (write in 1st person)

Rubric for Lab Report One: 40 Points

Formatting—2 pts

Procedure—10 pts, broken down as follows:

* Materials—2 pts
* Safety precautions—2 pts
* Procedure—6 pts
	+ Should be clear and easy-to-follow
	+ The reader should not have to struggle to understand your procedure!

Observations and Data—10 pts

* Your observations and data should demonstrate that you were fully participating in the lab
* You should have observations/data for each trial/test you perform

Analysis—5 pts

* Charts and/or graphs are clearly labeled
* Appropriate graphs are included (i.e., knowing when a bar graph would be better than a line graph and vice versa)
* If there are calculations, these are clearly labeled and easy to follow

Conclusion—13 pts

* Paragraph 1: 5 pts
	+ What did you find?
	+ What claims can you make based on what you found? These claims should relate to the purpose.
* Paragraph 2: 5 pts
	+ What were possible sources of error?
	+ If you were to do this same lab again, how could you improve?
* Paragraph 3: 3 pts
	+ What was it like to write and perform your own lab?

A Note on Writing:

There is absolutely no excuse for misspelling in an assignment you have time to type and proofread. Do not misspell words, but keep in mind that Microsoft Word does not recognize “catalase” as a word.

Do not confuse your science vocabulary. If you mean to say substrate, then use the word “substrate,” not “enzyme.” They are different things, and if you interchange them then I can’t be sure you know what you’re talking about. Say what you mean. If you’re not sure, ask a peer, consult your textbook, and then ask me if you still need guidance.

I will not be checking your paper for mechanics (punctuation, etc), but this is a writing assignment—use proper grammar and academic language. There should be no sentence fragments, and you should avoid run-ons as much as you can. Lab reports in sloppy English are a waste of my time and detrimental to your grade.