

Sections of an APA Style Lab Report

Unless otherwise instructed, each lab report must have the following sections:

- a. Title Page which has the following elements:
 - i. Title, date(s) of lab, and date lab report was turned in
 - ii. Your name and names of group members (if applicable)
 - iii. The first page number shows up on this page.
- b. Abstract
 - i. Abbreviated version of your entire report.
 - ii. limited to a maximum of 250 words**
 - iii. It should state the main objective and rationale of your project,
 - iv. it should outline the methods you used to accomplish your objectives,
 - v. it should list your project's results or product (or projected or intended results or product, if your project is not yet complete),
 - vi. It should draw conclusions about the implications of your project.
- c. Introduction
 - i. Begins with the main heading title Introduction
 - ii. This section gives the background for the study/experiment
 - iii. This section also gives the purpose, problem statement, or question being answered.
- d. Method (note that this is singular) this section has the following subsections (each is a secondary heading).
 - i. Equipment/Materials
 1. Describes materials used in experiment
 2. Describe the equipment used in the experiment
 3. Includes both software and hardware
 - ii. Participants/Test subjects
 1. This section describes those that participated in the experiment (test groups)
 - iii. Hypothesis
 1. One sentence in "If...then...because..." format.
 - iv. Variables
 1. Independent/Stimulus: Describes in clear, precise detail the stimulus that was presented to the participant/subject. This describes the variable that is being manipulated
 2. Dependent: What is measured during experiment
 3. Constant: Factors that stay the same
 4. Control: Test group used for comparison, this group should NOT be manipulated.
 - v. Procedure
 1. Describe in a simple direct manner, the method used to collect the data.
 2. The actual collection of the data is a real part of the method and should be described. It is vital that what data is collected (the dependent variable) is absolutely clear to the reader - not just in your head.

e. Results

- i. A clear description of the data collected, how it has been manipulated, and what it means.
- ii. Figures:
 1. Figures are numbered consecutively.
 2. All figures (data tables, graphs, charts) are correctly displayed, labeled, and titled. Remember: (**D**ependent / **R**esponding on the **Y** axis; **M**anipulated / **I**ndependent on the **X** axis) (**TAILS** – **T**itle, **A**xis, **I**nterval, **L**abels, **S**cale)
 3. When you refer to a specific figure, call it "Figure 1" or whatever number it is. Notice that Figure is capitalized. It is a proper noun in this case as it refers to a specific thing in this place.
 4. Place any figure that you use just after the paragraph that describes what is plotted in the figure, though it can be before the text that describes the trends in the data.
 5. After the figure comes a figure caption. It has the following format (with x referring to the particular figure number):
 - a. Figure X. Here is a brief description of what is in the figure.

f. Analysis & Discussion

- i. Did the results support the hypothesis?
- ii. Why or why not?
- iii. Include data to support evidence
- iv. This is the time to interpret the data and **ANALYZE IT!**

g. Conclusion

- i. Restate problem and hypothesis.
- ii. What did you find? Include data.
- iii. What does it mean?
- iv. What did you learn? Interpret the results in light of the introduction.
- v. What went wrong?
- vi. What improvements could have been made?
- vii. What new questions arise from the experiment?
- viii. Real world application. How and why was this experiment relevant/important?

h. References

- i. Include a reference section for all works that you use in your write-up.
- ii. You should use APA format for the references. Include in text citations in background, analysis, or conclusion sections when applicable. For more information on how to properly cite using APA format click the following link: [Purdue APA Format Guidelines](#)

*You should at least have a reference to any **lab handouts** associated with the lab performed (if given by instructor).