

Good Laboratory Practices

Consult this handout before and after each lab:

Pre-Lab:

- Some labs may require that you read/go over the lab sheet before lab day
 - All labs are different and require special attention to detail and instructions
 - Failure to properly prepare for a lab may put you and your group members behind in completion of the lab
 - Follow teacher's direction on how to prepare for each lab
 - This will help to save you and your group valuable time in completing a lab on time and having class-time to answer post-lab/analysis questions

In-lab:

- For most labs, you will be allowed to choose your own lab group
 - If teacher deems that a lab group is not on task or working, lab group will be separated and/or will not be allowed to be a group in all subsequent lab activities
 - This is a PRIVILEGE to you; If your group abuses this privilege, the teacher will pick your group members
- Each student is expected to be actively engaged in the lab
- Each student is expected to complete and turn in his/her own lab worksheet
- Each student is expected to contribute and participate in the completion of each lab
- Bottle caps need to be put on chemicals immediately after use
- Lab should be equally distributed so that each lab member has a job/duty that they are responsible for
 - One group member should NOT be performing the lab while all others are standing around
- Move about the room carefully and methodically when grabbing lab equipment and chemicals as others will also be working in close proximity
- The lab counters are NOT a sitting platform; They are used for lab equipment and lab work only
- Proper Uncertainty
 - Measurements should always be recorded to contain one uncertain, estimated digit

Clean-up:

- All waste is disposed of properly per teacher's instructions and directions
- Glassware is neatly washed, cleaned, dried, and placed in proper areas per teacher's directions
- Lab counters should be properly wiped down and cleaned up before leaving the lab area
 - If your lab group is constantly asked to clean up lab area, your entire group will be separated and/or will be required to clean all other stations
- Lab equipment should be properly put in place and set up for the next class period

Post-Lab & Conclusion:

- Sufficient work and units need to be shown for all calculations
- Each post-lab/analysis questions need to be fully and concisely answered
- Graphs need to be properly labeled with axes & title
 - Lines should always be smooth flowing
- Sources of error must be included but not related to calculations or measurements
- Complete sentences should always be used
- Although lab data should be the same for all lab group members, post-lab/analysis questions should be answered individually and NOT be copied from a lab partner
 - Violation of this policy will be constituted as plagiarism and will result in proper consequences