

****These are general guidelines. Follow the guidelines given by your tutor for how they want you to write up their specific laboratory.**

General Lab Report Structure

Date The date the experiment took place.

Experiment Title

Conducted by Group number
Names of the people in your group

Aim(s)

1. Purpose of the experiments.
2. Found in the lab manual (**write in your own words**).

Introduction A **brief** description of the experiment in the context of existing knowledge. Information for this section can be found by reading relevant sections of your textbook, lecture notes and journal papers. Cite any references used e.g. (Smith, 2010). Remember, failure to correctly cite information obtained from textbooks and other sources is plagiarism!

Methods **Summary** of the experimental methods that your group used during the laboratory. How did you collect the data? Include calibration factors, formulae and statistical methods used in your calculations. **Rewrite the methods found in your manual in your own words.**

Results A brief description of what you observed during the experiments. The data you collected are summarised and presented as tables of numeric data, graphs, printouts of traces (if appropriate), etc. Clearly number and label each figure/table. Refer to the appropriate figure/tables in the text (Figure 1).

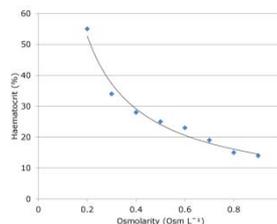


Figure 1. Haematocrit measurements made from red blood cells (RBCs) suspended in solutions of increasing osmolarities.

Figure 1: Example of data presented as a figure.

Discussion Discussion of what your results mean. Evaluate and interpret each of your results - possibly in terms of formulating a hypothesis to explain them. Relate your results to what is known i.e. refer to your textbook and the scientific literature. A critical appraisal of the methods is also appropriate in this section.

This is the most important section...to get high marks in the report, you need to demonstrate a clear understanding of the experiment and the science behind it.

Conclusions A brief outline of what you think **your findings** show.

References At the end of your report, include a list of all books or journal articles you have **referred to** (cited) in the report.