

How to Write an ADI Lab Report

Your lab report should be **typed**! It should be in paragraph form. Do NOT make lists or use numbered steps in your procedure. If it is easier for you to break your report into sections you may do so. Use paragraphs typed in size 12 font (Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial, Tahoma – pick a font that is easy to read). **Single spaced**. The report MUST be under two pages (including tables and graphs).

Section 1: Introduction and Guiding Question – this is from the lab instructions you are given.

Look at your lab handout, the *Introduction section* is the background – summarize it in your own words. You just need to put the basics. 3 to 5 sentences.

After the 3 to 5 background sentences continue with the next sentence: My task is to .. (look at the second page of your lab paper, see where it says “YOUR TASK”? That’s what you write word for word!)

Your final sentence of this paragraph should be: The Guiding Question is . . (look at your lab paper – your guiding question is given to you under Your Task – copy it word for word!)

Now, reread this section, ask yourself . . . Does it make sense, does it flow well? Is it in complete sentences?

Section 2: Method - Write down everything you do during the lab on your data sheet, and this will be easy.

You need to THINK here. This will likely be the longest paragraph. You need to write down exactly what you did from the beginning to the end of your experiment. This is why it is important to write EVERY step as you do it down on your data paper. Pretend like you are telling your friend exactly what you did in your experiment and write it down.

Now reread the paragraph! If you gave this paragraph to another student, could they read it and do the lab exactly as you did with no outside help? If not, you need to rewrite it so they could. Make sure you tell what size or type of equipment and substrates you use, the amounts you use and the order you complete the lab in. To help, have a friend read it and tell you what more information they need from you to copy what you did.

If you did not include the following information in the above paragraph, add it now:

1. What data did you collect? In other words what was your dependent variable, what did you measure? “The data I collected was . . .”
2. How did this data help you answer the guiding question? “This data helped me answer the guiding question because . . .”

Section 3: The Argument – You need the information from your board to complete this section.

The first thing you will do here is insert your table with all of your data. Next, if you created a graph (use a graph if it makes the data easier to understand) insert it below or next to the table. Check your titles, labels and units!

Your first sentence will be your claim. This is NOT your hypothesis! This is what you found to be true – this is what will really happen if the experiment went as it should. Write it just like it was on your board (after your “Walk About” and your classmates and teacher checked it).

Your next sentence(s) will explain what the table and/or graph are showing. What were your results?

Your next sentence(s) will explain why this information (your claim) is important to us and to science. Give an example of something in real life that supports this claim. You can usually find this in the Introduction of the lab (your background information) or think about what we are studying in class.

Your next sentence will be how your claim compared to other groups’ claims.

Reread this section to check for errors. **If it is error free . . . you’re done!**