

Lab Notebook

Although each class may have additional requirements, the Chemistry Department looks for these items in every lab notebook:

1. All notebook entries are written in non-erasable pen.
2. Errors should be crossed out with a single line (not scribbled out).
3. Notebook entries should have a date and a title, and those titles should be reflected in a Table of Contents at the beginning of the notebook.
4. All pages should be numbered so that they can be referenced in the Table of Contents.
5. External materials that are added into the notebook need to be taped in.

Content of a lab notebook entry:

1. Experiment title
2. Experimental goals/objectives (Purpose/Hypothesis)
 - a. Why are you doing the experiment?
3. Answers to any pre-lab questions
4. Procedure/Methods
 - a. Plan
 - b. What was actually done (adjustments that you made)

Goal: Be able to know what you did weeks after you completed the lab. Your procedure should be detailed enough so that someone who has similar experience to you would be able to repeat your experiment. Especially you!

5. Raw data/results/observations
Ideally, organized in tables!
6. Discussion/interpretation of data

YOU – Six weeks or six years from now!—are the audience for your lab notebook. That's why you need to explain things thoroughly.