

Lab Report Assessment Form

Author _____ Assignment _____

Assessor _____ Date _____

1) Does the **Abstract** contain numerical results and key conclusions? Y N

Does it contain information that is not a result or conclusion?

If not, list things that don't belong.

2) Does **the Introduction** explain why the experiment was done? Y N

Does it give useful background information? Including key theory and equations?

If not, what's missing?

3) Is the **Raw Data** in a table? Or a graph? T G

Are the presentations of data clear? Are units always shown?

Is the table single-spaced? Are there columns that are too wide?

Is the raw data reported with the correct least significant digit of the measuring instrument?

For graphs, are the axes and units labeled? Do the ranges of the axes make sense given the data?

Could the graph be smaller?

Is the caption below the graph?

Is anything missing or confusing? If so, what?

4) **Data Analysis:** Are all numerical results contained in one table? Y N

Are the results labeled with their experimental meaning? Are the units clear?

How are errors in the results expressed?

How are differences assessed for significance?

Is there a clear sample calculation using one of the data?

5) **Error Analysis:** Are key numerical results compared to accepted values? Y N

If so, how? Relative error or absolute error?

Are there important results that weren't listed in the abstract? What?

Is a t test used to assess significant differences? Are its results clear?

What statistics are missing?

Is there a clear discussion of possible sources of determinate error?

How these sources would affect the results? How their presence could be confirmed?

6) Do the **Conclusions** make sense given the data? Y N

Does the report draw conclusions beyond the scope of the data?

Conversely, does the report understate the quality of the data to avoid drawing a conclusion?

Does it attempt to explain all the observed differences?

Does it suggest future experiments that are interesting extensions of the experiment?