Lab Notebooks and Result sheets

Your lab notebooks are to be turned in each week, at the end of the lab. Your lab notebook should be an organized, legible, complete account of your lab work.

- Include any lab notes taken at the beginning of class in your notebook.
- Start each experiment on a new page; include the date, experiment title, and lab partners.
- Use either pen or pencil, but DO NOT erase any large portion - cross them out neatly.
- When you’re done, the question you should ask yourself: “If I read my lab book in one year, could I reproduce this experiment without the lab manual? Could my lab partner?”
- If you need to paste graphs etc. into your lab notebook, cut the out neatly WITH A SCISSORS and paste them in (GLUE IS BEST, TAPE IS BAD). You do not want to have pages flowing out beyond the footprint of your lab notebook.

- Include:

  - **Purpose**: What are you trying to accomplish with this lab? 1-3 sentences should suffice. Think “big picture”, not “well-first-I-did-this-then-I-did-that” cookbook style.
  - **Set-up**: Brief description of important aspects of setup, with schematic diagram(s). Don’t recopy the lab manual.
- **Data**: You should present your data very clearly. Always box all important results. Also, data tables (hand-drawn or Excel printout) are great. Always include units, and uncertainties if available.

- **Analysis**: Clearly write down the formula first, before you use it. Show how you did any calculations you did. If it is a repetitive calculation, you only need to show an example. If you are having Excel compute formulas for you, write the formulas on the printout, or type them into the headers. Include graphs (hand-drawn or computer printout.)

- **Results/Conclusions**: Briefly summarize your results. What do they tell you? How well did your results agree with the theoretical or expected result? If they did not agree, give some possible reasons why.

- **Result Sheet**: Fill in the result sheet (from your lab manual), and paste it into your lab notebook. All important results asked for on the result sheet should also be in the body of the notebook.