Lab Report Format

Any lab report that is called "a paper" should be typed in double-spaced format and should contain 5 parts. These parts should be clearly labeled:

**Introduction:** Provide some background information on the subject of the paper and then present the null hypothesis for each experiment clearly.

**Materials and methods:** For the purpose of this experiment, assume your reader is familiar with general lab procedures so you don't have to describe how many test tubes you used or why you did something a specific way. Describe what and how you did the experiment. You should not duplicate the exact text of your lab manual. Your methods and materials should be derived from the notes that you made as you conducted the experiment.

**Results:** Show the results in figures (graphs or histograms) on a separate page and refer to it in the text: "As shown in Figure 1, the measurements indicate that...". Do not repeat the actual results in a table and also in a graph; you will lose points if you do so. The results need to be represented clearly only once. Keep the results section brief.

**Discussion:** A brief essay of how your results reflect on the axioms and predictions. If your results contradict what other researchers have shown, i.e., what is in the textbook or lab manual, try to rationalize why your results are different. Was there something different with your assumptions, your equipment or your technique that would produce different results?

**References:** Cite authoritative sources to support your axioms and your reasoning. Use citations when referring to previously published ideas. The standard format is to put the author and year in parentheses, e.g., (Campbell, 1989) at the end of the sentence in the text. In the References section, list the references with a complete citation in alphabetical order. For example:


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