

Lab Abstract Rubric

A lab abstract is a summary of a lab with specific information. It should be 8-10 complete sentences, hand-written or typed to your preference, and have the following components:

1) **Purpose: 1-2 sentences**

The purpose of a lab can usually be found at the top of the lab sheet. It may only be one sentence long; it may be a paragraph long. You summarize the purpose in 1-2 complete sentences.

Example: The purpose at the top of the lab says, "In this investigation, you will measure the capillary action of various liquids and estimate the relative polarity of each liquid." You would summarize this as, "We investigated liquid polarity and capillary action."

2) **Procedure: 2-3 sentences**

You will have many steps or procedures in any lab – summarize them without too much detail.

Example: The procedure steps says, "Place 5 mL of hydrochloric acid in the flask. Add 6 mL of sodium hydroxide. Swirl for 2 minutes and transfer to a beaker. Heat for 15 minutes." You would summarize this as, "We mixed HCl and NaOH and transferred to a beaker for heating. We heated for 15 minutes then observed the changes."

3) **Results: 1-2 sentences**

Summarize your data and results, focusing on the main reaction or pattern. You do not replicate the entire data set.

Example: Your lab has a data table with 5 chemicals and their average height in a capillary tube. The pattern of the data shows that the higher the polarity of the molecule, the higher they go. You would summarize this as, "Our data showed that high polarity in a molecule means high capillary action."

4) **Conclusion: 1-2 sentences**

Here you note any errors you made in the lab and, most importantly, **what you learned**.

Example: The lab involved adding copper chloride to aluminum and watching the solution transfer the metals. You might say, "We didn't add enough copper chloride, so our aluminum didn't react fully. I learned that aluminum is a strong element that will pull copper away from its compound."

You may use pronouns such as "I" or "we" when writing an abstract. Make sure your name, period, date, and honor pledge are on the top, and staple it to your printed lab with the questions and data completed.