

Scientific Writing Guidelines

Chem1AL, General Chemistry I Lab

ABSTRACT

1-2 sentences—brief is better!

Introduction that describes the problem, how you will solve it, and what results and conclusions you expect to find

BACKGROUND

Three or four paragraphs

Explain any history surrounding the problem, the significance of the problem, and any relevant information, equations, or other calculations and theories needed

PROCEDURE

Include a separate equipment list

Write each step clearly enough that another student totally unfamiliar with the problem could come in and repeat your experiment exactly without needing outside help

DATA TABLES

Include blank data tables for any data needing to be collected, including proper labels, units, and instructions, so that another student would know exactly where to record it

CALCULATIONS

Tables, bullet points

Give at least one example for every calculation required, clearly labeled

CONCLUSION

1-2 lines

Give space for another student to clearly indicate their results in an organized format

Citing Guidelines: <http://chemistry.library.wisc.edu/writing/acs-style-guidelines.html>

Website: Author (if any). Title of Site. URL (accessed date), other identifying information.

Weisstein, E. W. Molecular Orbital Theory.

<http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/chemistry/MolecularOrbitalTheory.html> (accessed 12/15/03), part of Eric Weisstein's World of Science. <http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/> (accessed 12/15/03)

Journal: Author. *Journal Title*. Year, Issue, Pages