



OUTLINE FOR WRITING UP A SCIENCE LAB

Title of Lab

Date

I. **PURPOSE**

Problem, hypothesis, question or phenomenon

- a description of what the purpose of doing the lab is. What is being tested? What does the lab try and show or prove?

II. **MATERIALS**

- a detailed list is necessary so that another scientist can reproduce the experiment in exactly the same way.

III. **PROCEDURE**

- a careful explanation of how to set up, and carry out the experiment. All pertinent information has to be included. The write up is the main resource for others to reproduce the experiment.

IV. **DIAGRAM**

- must be done extremely carefully and labeled accurately to further clarify how the experiment was carried out.

V. **OBSERVATIONS**

- although they are subjective, a clear, detailed list of what was noticed must be kept. Small seemingly insignificant details can prove to be important later on, so this aspect of a lab write-up is extremely important.

VI. **CONCLUSION**

- what, in fact, was proven or shown. What were the results?

VII. **SOURCES OF ERROR & IMPROVEMENT**

- an analysis of all aspects of the experiment should be done to further the investigation. What factors may have caused inaccurate conclusions or caused errors. How could the experiment be changed or added to in order to understand more about the ideas being examined. What would make it better?