

Lab report grading rubric for biological sciences

Jane Phillips

Biology 1002

Lab report grades:

The letter grades on the reports correspond to the following evaluation of the work.

	On holistic scale	Thoroughness	Support	Accuracy	Writing level
A level work	Excellent	Nothing missing: all questions answered, all support materials included, references to support materials easy to follow, Interpretation of results shows real insight into the experiment.	All materials excellently prepared. Graphs and data tables well labeled and easy to understand. Illustrations included if appropriate for clear explanation. (Note that does not mean that an A paper must have illustrations, only that a well done and well placed illustration may contribute to an excellent presentation.)	Content addressed accurately, using and covering appropriate scientific concepts. No or only a few minor errors. Excellent writing skills. Focused, clear, well organized, easy to read. Mix of complex and simple sentences, with each sentence constructed correctly. Ideas clearly expressed. Appropriate use and level of scientific language.	At the lower end of A, there may be a few mechanical writing errors (e.g., matching tense, spelling) but these should be few.
High B level work	Good Nothing missing.	Interpretation of results shows some insight into the experiment.	All materials very well prepared, including well-labeled graphs and data tables. Missing illustrative figures that would have contributed to a better paper.	Generally accurate in all major concepts, however there are a few more minor errors than expected for an A paper.	Good writing skills, but a few mechanical errors and could use better organization, variety and clarity.
Low B level work	Adequate	Did exactly what was asked for, answered all questions, however report is missing insight of a better report.	All materials adequately prepared, including well-labeled graphs and data tables. Missing illustrative figures that would have contributed to a better paper.	Generally accurate in all major concepts, however there are a few more minor errors than expected for a higher B paper.	Adequate writing skills.
C level work	Marginally adequate	Did exactly what was asked for. However, there are minor errors in interpretation that indicate some lack of understanding.	Included all graphs/data required, but there are minor errors in some.	No major errors but an additive amount of minor errors that indicate either misunderstanding or haphazard preparation of the report.	Level of writing somewhat below what would be expected of a college student. Student could benefit from a visit to a writing lab.
D level work	Poor	Missing some major element of an adequate report.	There are missing graphs or data and/or there are some significant errors in graphing or data presentation	There is a major error in interpretation of the entire experiment. In addition, there are minor errors in interpretation that indicate some lack of understanding.	The level of writing is definitely below what would be expected of a college student. Student should seriously consider focusing on writing skills improvement.
Letter grade	Will earn this percent of points possible on this report			On sliding scale	

A+	100%	Excellent
A	95%	Excellent
A-	92%	Good
B+	89%	Good
B	85%	Good
B-	80%	Adequate
C+	78%	Adequate
C	75%	Adequate
C-	72%	Adequate
D+	68%	Poor
D	65%	Poor
D-	60%	Poor
U-R	Total possible point scores on rewritten reports are 50% of the amount that could be earned by having the report acceptable the first time.	Unacceptable-Rewrite
U-N	0%	Unacceptable-No rewrite

Phillips, Jane. Biology 1002. College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota. December 2002.