# Lab Reports

# The purpose of a lab report is to:

- focus on a hypothesis
- provide a record of the experienment
- · detail the method and equipment used
- · present results
- analyse and interpret the data
- draw conclusions



# **Structure of a Lab Report**

## **Title Page**

- title of the experiment
- student name and ID
- name of school, Eastern Institute of Technology
- course name and code
- tutor's name
- date the report due

#### **Abstract**

- A brief summary (100–200 words) of the entire report that includes:
  - o purpose of the experiment
  - o methods
  - o findings
  - o discussion
  - o conclusion



# Introduction

- background: scientific context and relevance of the experiment
- objective: what the experiment aims to investigate
- hypotheses: expected outcomes, justified with theory and/or previously published results

#### **Materials and Methods**

- detailed list of equipment and materials used
- step-by-step description of procedures
- written clearly enough to enable replication by someone else



#### Results

- presentation of data, e.g., statistical analysis
- use of tables, graphs, and figures—use APA 7th style
- observations made during the experiment

#### Discussion

- interpretation of results
- comparison with expected outcomes or hypotheses with explanation for similarity or differences
- · scientific reasoning and analysis
- reference to relevant literature where applicable

#### Conclusion

- summary of findings
- statement regarding whether the hypotheses or the null hypotheses were supported
- implications of the results
- suggestions for future experiments

### References

list of all sources cited—use APA 7th style

# **Appendices**

- supplementary material such as
  - o raw data
  - calculations
  - o lab notes

# **Characteristics of a Good Lab Report**

- scientific tone and language:
  - o formal, objective, clear, and precise language
  - technical terminology used appropriately
  - o accurate spelling and grammar
- accurate, detailed, and replicable method
- objective presentation of results
- thoughtful analysis and discussion
- logical and evidence-based conclusions
- APA referencing and style



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