

AP Physics Laboratory Journal Rubric

	Professional (5)	Good (4)	Fair (3)	Needs Improvement (2)
Introduction: Purpose, Equipment list & description, diagram of set up	Purpose is clearly defined and <i>typed to relevant physics concepts</i> ; equipment purpose is explicit; diagram is labeled and clear enough that a person unfamiliar with the experiment could set it up	Purpose is clearly stated; equipment is listed; diagram is large enough to be easily recognized and labeled	Purpose is clearly stated; equipment is listed; diagram is included but is small or unlabeled	Purpose is unclear; equipment list is incomplete or missing; diagram is small and hard to understand
Procedure: Background information, instructions, safety	Procedure <i>explicitly ties relevant physics concepts to steps</i> ; safety of equipment and people are addressed; <i>a person unfamiliar with the lab could do the experiment exactly as intended</i>	Procedure is clearly written and relates to physics concepts; safety is mentioned; directions are easy to follow	Procedure is clearly written but does not reference physics concepts; safety is mentioned; directions are easy to follow	Procedure is incomplete; safety is not included; directions are unclear
Data & Graphs: Variables, data tables, calculations, graphs	Known and unknown variables are clearly stated; calculations are performed with <i>reference to physics concepts</i> ; graphs are relevant, complete, and <i>interpreted correctly</i>	Variables are listed; calculations are performed correctly; graphs are complete and relevant	Variables are listed; calculations are incomplete OR done incorrectly; graphs are present and relevant but incomplete	Variables are incomplete or missing; calculations are incomplete AND incorrect; graphs are missing or unrelated to experiment
Analysis: Error analysis, targeted questions, conclusions	Error analysis includes % error (if applicable) and detailed description of the sources of error; questions are answered completely and thoughtfully; <i>conclusions explicitly apply results from experiment to physics concepts</i>	% Error is included and sources of error are listed; questions are answered completely; conclusions are clear and have some ties to physics concepts	% Error is missing OR sources of error are incomplete; questions are answered incompletely; conclusions are clear but do not tie to physics concepts	% Error is missing AND sources of error are incomplete; questions are answered incompletely; conclusions are unclear and not tied to physics concepts

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