

Research Laboratory Notebook Rubric

Objective	Novice (1)	Intermediate (2)
Use of Notebook	Does not bring lab notebook to lab. OR Has not recorded Title, Goal, Methods, Materials for the day's experiment in lab notebook before entering lab.	Before coming to the lab has not written clearly in the lab notebook the plan for the day's experiment and all materials needed for the so has to take additional time during the lab period deciding what to do and what materials to use before starting day's experiment
	Does not write in lab notebook throughout lab period. Has no pen available .	Rarely writes in lab notebook while in the lab. Uses pencil, water-soluble ink or nonblack ink to write in lab notebook.
	No sample calculations included or all are erroneous.	Inaccurate or missing sample calculations for solutions used.
Organization	Pages are not numbered or dated	Most pages are numbered and dated.
	No Titles or Headings	Title or some headings are missing.
	30% of pages are signed by the author and dated.	60% of pages are signed by the author and dated.
	More than 3 pages are left blank or partially completed	1 - 3 pages are skipped.
	More than 20 lines in the recorded section are blank.	Up to 20 lines in the recorded section are blank.

		Written illegibly and in pencil.		Written illegibly or in pencil.	
		Table of Contents is missing.		Table of Contents entry is present but incomplete.	
Content		Experimental Goal is missing.		Experimental Goal is not a scientific goal.	
		Methods and Materials are missing.		Methods and Materials are incompletely described.	
		Safety information is missing or incorrect.		Some safety concerns are noted.	
		Results are missing or recorded incorrectly.		Results are recorded, but are messy or disorganized.	
		Observations are not recorded.		Observations are recorded.	
		Progress of project is not documented in notebook.		Progress of project has been occasionally documented in notebook.	
Analysis		Data analysis is not described or included.		Data is analyzed, but the methods used may not be fully described.	
		Graphs are missing or present the wrong data.		Graphs are included but violate some of the graphing guidelines.	
		No error analysis if included.		Error analysis is qualitative.	
Interpretation		Conclusions are not documented.		Immediate thoughts are recorded for most experiments.	

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Expert (3)
Comes into lab with Title, Goal, Methods, Materials already recorded in lab notebook for day's experiment so can start lab activities immediately upon entering lab.
Writes in lab notebook periodically throughout each lab period. Uses permanent black ink to record in lab notebook
Includes sample calculations for all solutions used in experiments.
All pages are numbered and every experiment is dated.
Each experiment is clearly labeled with a Title, Goal, Methods, Materials, Results, and Discussion.
Each page is signed by the author and dated
All entries start at top of first page and proceed on successive pages. Blank pages are crossed out.
Blank lines are crossed out.

Written legibly in black pen, not pencil.
Table of Contents lists date, experiment title, and page numbers for each experiment.
Goal is appropriate for the experiment.
One could repeat the experiment from the described Methods and Materials.
Safety concerns are noted with abatement procedures.
Results are tabulated with appropriate titles and headings.
Observations are carefully recorded.
Progress of project has been well documented in notebook.
Data analysis is complete with sample calculations written out in full.
Graphs are large, neat, and comply with graphing guidelines.
Final results are accompanied by error estimates.
Results are interpreted in the context of the hypothesis being tested.