

**Format: Times New Roman, size 12 font, double spaced, 1” margins all around.**

Project Title (remember the correct format!)

Researcher’s Name

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Bridgeport, Connecticut

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**Abstract (on its own page)**

One paragraph that summarizes the report. Includes why the experiment was performed; what problems were addressed; what major conclusions were found; and what major conclusions were drawn. Does not include general background information. Belongs at the very beginning of the paper, but should be written last.

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**I. Introduction:** Includes the reason the study is being done, relevant background information about the organism or process being examined, and the hypothesis or questions being asked in the study.

**Purpose:** In a sentence or 2 to tell your reader why you are doing the experiment. Be specific here because if you are too general then you will not give your reader a clear idea of the reason for you doing the experiment.

**Hypothesis:** In a sentence or 2 to tell your reader what your educated guess about the possible outcome(s) is. This is where you would use an “if…then…” statement. Example 1, “*If you treat 4 materials with oil, then a film case filled with pennies will slide at a lower angle than without oil*.” Example 2, “*A film case filled with pennies will slide at a lower angle down a plane because the friction will be reduced by an oil treatment.”* Remember, you will state whether this has been proved or disproved in your conclusion!!

**II. Experimental Materials:** This is a list of what you used during the experiment. BE SPECIFIC!!! How many pennies were inside the film case? Think of making this list like you were giving it to another person to gather and follow.

**III. Experimental Procedure:** This is the COMPLETE list of steps that you used in your experiment to gather your data. You can number these in order, or write them in paragraph format however, YOU MUST LIST THEM IN THE PROPER ORDER THAT YOU DID THEM. Remember, you are writing this for someone else to follow and carry out the experiment without you there. Include when you measure something and where you record it as well.

States what you did with enough detail to allow the reader to repeat the experiment. Lists the steps of the procedure in order and the reasons for each. Includes all calculations or formulas needed to obtain the final results. Write this section with the audience in mind; most people do not need to be told how to find the mean or standard deviation of the data, but will need to know the formula used to find the rate of oxygen consumption of an organism.

**IV. Results:** This is where you show tables of your data in easy to read form. This is also where you display your graphs and charts. Additionally, whenever you have QUALITATIVE data that you need to write in paragraph form you include it here. You will always have paragraphs to include here so your tables and graphs should always be accompanied by paragraphs describing textures, colors, and other observations. IMPORTANT: All graphs and tables are labeled with a title, and graphs have all axis labels with what units of measurement you used. Presents the results in text and graphic form (figures, tables, graphs) and describes the general trends seen in the data. All figures and tables should be referenced in a narrative. Do not redraw the graph in words; let it do the work for you. Ex. Temperature had a pronounced effect on seedling growth rate (Figure 6). In particular, seedlings at 25 degrees Celsius consistently grew more rapidly than those at 20 degrees Celsius.

Do not offer any explanation for the results in this section.

**V. Discussion:** Tries to answer the question "Why?" Explains what was expected and what was found. Does the data support the original hypothesis? Why or why not? This section presents reasons for the results obtained in the experiment and references related studies. It also includes potential sources of error. The discussion is the meat of the paper. Do not use the word "probably." This is where you EXPLAIN AND MAKE INFERENCES as to why you saw what you saw. Restate the purpose of your experiment. You support or reject your hypothesis and state what the correct conclusion is for the experiment. You extend your conclusion by saying why characteristics of the materials you used caused the observations you saw. Remember, EXPLAIN here and make your inferences here. Lastly, state what potential sources of error were present in the experiment and how we designed it and how you can improve the experiment next time.

**VI. Conclusion:** Consists of a single paragraph. Restates the objective, the results, and important discussion findings. Does NOT introduce new material. A conclusion is sometimes used in lieu of an abstract.

**VII. References Cited (ON ITS OWN PAGE)**

Remember to use APA citations here ONLY. The following website is a great reference. Use the left hand navigation bar to help you find the type of information you’re looking for. Also, an in-text citation is the brief citation you use within the body of your paper, a reference is the extended citation that goes in your references cited section. IMPORTANT: IN THE LINK BELOW, YOU ONLY NEED TO USE THE “IN-TEXT CITATION” LINKS AND THOSE THAT SAY “REFERENCE LIST” FOR FORMATS TO USE IN YOUR VERY IMPORTANT REFERENCES CITED SECTION.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>