

## **LABORATORY NOTEBOOK** (revised 4/26/23):

The laboratory notebook should be a reasonably neat and organized daily log of your laboratory experiences. It should:

1. contain:
  - a. an index (e.g., lab name, #, and page 3)
  - b. numbered pages
  - c. the experiments:
    - (1) dated pages
    - (2) changes in procedure or unusual procedures
    - (3) your laboratory data (e.g., including experiment title, lab partner(s))
    - (4) observations,
    - (5) calculations,
    - (6) results,
    - (7) your thoughts on what is happening, what has gone wrong, and what could be done differently,
  - d. any ideas you think of (e.g., ones that might warrant additional research),
  - e. other items of use in your research (e.g., names and phone numbers of people helping with the research, places where equipment can be purchased, etc.)
2. be permanent, such that all original “good and bad” data can be easily found:
  - a. hard bound, without missing pages (but we will use a 3 ring notebook to allow for better organization),
  - b. written in pen,
  - c. not have erasures (simply make a horizontal line through what you believe is “bad” information),
  - d. be written during the laboratory experience (e.g., not on a paper towel and copied)

A glance at a reasonable notebook can often reveal whether an error in results was due to an experimental or a calculation error; you might benefit as a result.

It should be **handed in by the start of lab on the last regular lab day of the semester**. It will be graded fairly liberally, primarily checking to see that you have followed the guidance above.