

Comment on Legibility

A number of years ago a study was done on undergraduate lab reports.

100 Harvard undergraduates prepared word-for-word identical lab reports

The lab reports were given to lab instructors at another college to grade.

In all cases (human nature), the more legible reports got higher grades!

So, when you write your lab report (in any lab class):

Remember that your lab report must be readable to be graded.



1. Use pen

2. Write so others can read it

3. Use the correct order of components

4. Show work (and units) in calculations

5. Use more than 1 page when necessary ... small writing in a bizarre order to fit everything on a single page makes the report extremely difficult to follow.

6. If you use a 2 column format, fill in the left side first.

7. Staple the pages in the correct order.

Finally,

People (including prospective employers) will judge you on how you write and organize. Convoluted writing, lack of proper organization, not following directions, and sloppy presentations do not present favorable impressions.

Before you submit your report (or any college assignment), look at it, and ask yourself if you were the employer or financial aid source, would you financially support the person submitting the document in front of you?

If the answer is no, then you should re-evaluate how you are doing your assignments.

