



## WRITING A LAB REPORT FOR THE EMPIRICAL SCIENCES

The empirical sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Astronomy and the like) investigate topics by using the *scientific method* (laboratory experimentation) and many will require the writing of a *lab report*. The acronym of IMRaD is often used to indicate the common four sections of a lab report: ***introduction, methods, results*** and ***discussion***.

The following is a general guideline. Your professor may have specific requirements for the submission of lab reports and his/her instructions should always be followed.

### GENERAL FORMATTING

Follow APA guidelines for the general page appearance (font, margins, etc.).

You will be expected to use a ***passive voice*** in your writing; this adds a formality to the report that is expected. Writing in a ***passive voice*** means dropping the use of pronouns as in the

***Conclusions*** Summarize the data, just the key information, and state if your hypothesis is accepted or rejected as a result. Indicate why the data speaks toward the acceptance or rejection of the hypothesis. Discuss any possible experimental errors that may have been made and how they might influence the results. Your conclusion will often suggest a new hypothesis to pursue and can be discussed here. Do not forget to use a passive voice in your writing here.

There are other formats for lab reports and your