

## LABORATORY REPORT GUIDELINES

Upon completion of each genetics lab you will be asked to write. Lab reports are a great way to show you understand the basic method for scientific investigation and for reporting scientific findings. In fact the format I require is the basic format of published scientific manuscripts. Each student will write his or her OWN lab report based on work performed by both lab partners. Reports should be neat and organized---typed. You will receive an example from a former student for your first lab report.

Each lab report will be divided into 4 parts. The 4 parts to the lab report should be clearly labeled and separated. The parts should be presented in order, indicating when supporting material (like sketches) is attached.

**1. Background/ Purpose**—This section should include **GENERAL** background pertaining to the lab. You should draw from lecture, text, and from introductory information given in lab. The key to this section is starting out with general information---Do not begin with “ Today’s I did this ...” The background section should **end** with details about the specific **purpose** of the day’s lab.

**2. Experimental Design (Procedure)**—This section should clearly outline the exact materials and methods used in that particular lab. Materials should be listed first, then step by step procedure explained.

**3. Data and /or Observations**--- This section contains observations, sketches, written descriptions, measurements following the exercise. There should be no mention of meaning or conclusions in this part.

**4. Conclusions /Discussion**--- Comment on the outcome of the exercise, its meaning, conclusions you can draw. Add any real world relevance or application of what you did. Discuss any problems and discuss possible explanations, improvements.

\*\*\*\*The Post-lab discussions are designed to give you ideas for this section. Please participate and use these sessions to enhance your lab experience and report.

\*\*\*\*For some reports I will require some specific items to be included in each lab report in this section. I will occasionally pass out some guidelines for writing up a particular exercise.

***Ideally your lab reports should be organized and thorough enough for anyone to read and use as a lab manual for repeating the exercise.***