Purpose

The first section of a lab report is the "purpose." This section is used to explain why you did the experiment. It should also indicate what results you were looking for. The purpose section should be written in full sentences. In the purpose you should think about the following questions:

- Why did you perform the experiment?
- What did you want to find out?

Here is an example of a purpose:

The purpose of this experiment was to compare how high different balls will bounce. I was trying to see if different balls dropped from the same spot would bounce to the same height.

Equipment

The second section of a lab report is the "equipment." This section is used to list all of the supplies you needed to perform the experiment. The list should be a dot-jot list, not written sentences. If you needed certain numbers of things, you could also list how many of each. If you list how many, you can put it in brackets after the item:

Here is an example of an equipment list:

- *Tennis Ball (1)*
- *Golf Ball (1)*
- *Sponge Ball (1)*
- *Meter Stick (1)*
- *Tape*
- *Recording Sheet (1)*

Procedure

The third section of a lab report is the "procedure." This section is used to list the steps you did to complete the experiment. The procedure should be a numbered list of steps. Each step should be written as a sentence. The steps should be written in order, and should be clear, so that someone else could follow them to complete the experiment. If one of the steps is more than one line long, do not continue writing underneath the number.

Here is an example of a procedure:

1. *Tape the meter stick to the wall so that the zero is touching the ground.*
2. *Hold one of the balls at 100cm above the ground.*
3. *Have a partner duck down so they will be able to watch the ball bounce.*
4. *Drop the ball (do not throw).*
5. *Use the meter stick to measure how high the ball bounced.*
6. *Record your results on the recording sheet.*
7. *Repeat steps 2 – 6 with the other two balls.*

Observations

The fourth section of a lab report is the "observations." This section is used to record any measurements you made or any information you got with your senses. You DO NOT write about things that you thought about in this section. Never use "I think…" The observation section can include the following things:

- Tables
- Charts
- Pictures
- Drawings
- Written sentences
- Dot-jots

Here is an example of an observation section;

Ball	Height of Drop (cm)	Height of Bounce (cm)	
		Prediction	Result
Tennis Ball	*100 cm*	*80 cm*	*45 cm*
Golf Ball	*100 cm*	*20 cm*	*55 cm*
Sponge Ball	*100 cm*	*60 cm*	*35 cm*

- *The ball moved very quickly.*
- *If the ball hit something it bounced funny.*
- *If I dropped the ball differently, the bounce height changed.*
- *The ball made a noise when it hit the floor.*

Discussion

The last section of a lab report is the "discussion." This section is used to write out any thoughts you have, or discuss anything you learned. If there are questions asked, the answers should be recorded in this section. You should also talk about the results in this section. The discussion should be written in full sentences, only using dot-jots if you are making a list.

Here is an example of a discussion.

I thought that the tennis ball would bounce the highest, but the golf ball did. I think that the golf ball bounced higher because it is very hard, so it does not change shape when it hits the ground.

I found it difficult to measure bounce height. This is because the balls moved very quickly and my eyes had to be in the perfect spot to read it correctly. I think that I would need to measure each one multiple times to get accurate results.

The three balls made a sound when they hit the ground. The golf ball was a lot louder than the other two, I think this is because it is harder.