Guidelines for Reports

Reports should contain a very brief description of the experiment, and the results of the data analysis.

1 Specific Items

- Each student must write an independent report.
- In the report, give the name(s) of your lab partners, and the date on which the data was taken.
- Write in grammatically correct English.
- Turn in the report in hard copy.
- Please submit reports with the printing or writing on side only of each page. (You may recycle; it’s OK to have the “other” side with something written or printed on it.)
- Graph of data and predictions must be done on a computer. But hand-drawn apparatus figures and circuits are acceptable and recommended. It’s OK to paste in figures and graphs, if desired.
- Any graph must have its axes labelled with the quantity, and its units.
- If you have experimental data and a theoretical prediction of the data, plot them on the same graph.
- Plots of data should be integrated into the report. Don’t just attach your data sheet.

2 Don’t

- Don’t give procedures or idiot lists. The report should describe what you and your partners did. It should not give detailed instructions for operating the apparatus.
- Don’t present large tables of raw data, such as scope readouts.
- Don’t write a manual. Describe what you did.
- No praise. No apologies. No judgements.
• If the experiment has more than one part, report on each one independently.
  GOOD: Intro A, Apparatus A, Data A, etc., Intro B, Apparatus B, Data B, etc.
  BAD: Intro A, Intro B, Apparatus A, Apparatus B, Data A, Data B etc.

• The report is a stand-alone document. A person, like yourself, who has not taken
  this course, should be able to understand it without referring to other documents.

• Sample calculations not necessary.

• Error estimation not necessary unless specified in write-up.