Lab Report Guidelines

You and your lab partner will work together and submit one shared report. How you divide the work is up to you, but you will both want to have a complete understanding of the experiment, and both partners should contribute equally to each report. You should discuss the experiment and the report questions only with your lab partner. Help from other lab teams is not allowed.

The report should be typed, and lab notebook sheets from both partners should be included. Your report should have the following sections:

**Introduction:** (Purpose) Give a brief introduction to the experiment. What will you be doing and what do you hope to accomplish? This section should be no more than half a page. Include a graphical representation of any important reactions that are involved.

**Experimental and Results:** Give a description of the experiment and the results. Report measured data in tabular form. Include both numerical data, as well as qualitative observations (e.g. color changes or the formation of a precipitate). This section should be a concise report of all important data.

**Discussion:** This section should discuss the success or failure of an experiment. Explain what you expected to happen, and if possible, why. If something unexpected took place, discuss why. Points to consider include: Why might something unusual have occurred? What could you have done differently to achieve a different result? Why might an experiment have failed?

**Questions:** Clearly answer all report questions. I suggest that each partner initially answers the questions separately before discussing your answers with each other. Once you come to an agreement on the final answers, include these in your report. The report should contain only one set of answers.

**Conclusions:** The conclusion can be brief. State the success or failure of the experiment, what you learned, how it relates to class material, etc.

**Lab Notebook Sheets:** Your lab notes should be a detailed record of what you did and what you observed, including unexpected and unwanted results. Take the time in lab to take good notes--a complete, detailed notebook will make writing reports much easier.