

CH141 – Week 1 Lab Discussion Feedback

Below are several comments from the laboratory instructors to help you prepare future discussions for CH141 lab:

1. All lab discussions should include name, date, lab section, and a title. (for week 1 only: no points were taken off if any of these were missing).
2. Remember to include the significance of calculated data, not just the values. For example, it is not enough simply to report your “zinc” group’s precision was 81%, and that this was “good” or “bad”. What does the precision value mean? What does it tell you about the measurements, the obtained density value(s), and the experiment?
3. Be careful on significant figures! Almost everyone’s data included some volume measurements with only 1 significant figure (up to 2 maximum, given our methods). If you have only 1 sig fig for volume, and you calculate a density using that measurement, then your density would only have 1 sig fig (and in the case of 1 sig fig, you should probably comment briefly on the significance of having only 1 sig fig).
4. All figures and tables should have some identification (usually a title) and have proper labeling (axes, units, etc.).
5. References (for literature values, and anything else that needs referencing) need to be cited, and proper notation should be used (for week 1 only: no points were taken off if this was missing or done improperly).

Example citations:

For Handbooks (such as the Merck Index, CRC, etc.):

Name of Handbook. Edition. Publisher: Place, Year; page and/or entry number.

For websites:

Author (if any). Title of site. URL(accessed date), other identifying information.

For other books:

Author 1; Author 2; Author 3. *Book title*. Edition. Publisher: Place, Year; pages or chapter number.