

Lab Notebooks:

1. Must be bound notebooks of some sort. (I will allow spiral notebooks) DO NOT USE LOOSE SHEETS OF PAPER.
2. Graph paper notebooks are very useful (but not required).
3. Always use ink when writing in your notebook.
4. Do not erase - if something is wrong, cross it out neatly. You might even include a note in the margin about why it is wrong.
5. Keep notes on lectures and reading, as well as your laboratory notes in the notebook.
6. For your lab notes during an experiment:
 1. WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING - You will not remember anything when it comes time to write up the lab.
 2. Make a diagram of the equipment set-up, include what equipment is used (model, etc.)
 3. Write down the settings of dials and knobs on the equipment.
 4. Record ALL data in the notebook. Do NOT use loose sheets.
 5. Write down qualitative observations. "Sample just exploded"
 6. Tape or staple graphs into your notebook.
7. I should be able to reproduce the experiment from your notebook.

GENERAL CAUTIONS ABOUT WORKING IN THE LAB

1. Some of the equipment in this lab is DANGEROUS. There will be high voltages and/or high currents. Some things will get hot enough to burn you. Some lights will be very intense. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF SOMETHING - ASK !!
2. Some of the equipment in this lab is very expensive (>\$10,000). We do not have the funds to replace it. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF SOMETHING - ASK !!
3. Use common sense. Do not touch exposed wires. Do not look directly into any bright light source. This is true of lamps as well as lasers.
4. Some of the rooms we will use have other equipment set up in them. This equipment is being used for other lab courses or for research projects. DO NOT TOUCH !!! If you are curious what some of this equipment does, ask me. I will be delighted to explain it to you.
5. As long as you take these simple precautions, experimental physics can be fun. Enjoy probing the fundamentals of physics yourself - don't just read about it !