

PES 315 Modern Physics Laboratory

**Common Problems on early Lab reports**

Abstracts - not including important results in abstract

Make sure you know what you did - keep a good notebook

Do not just put isolated tables or graphs in the report - refer to them in the text and tell me about them.

Use external references when appropriate to support what you are reporting

Do not put lists of equipment settings unless they are critical to the message you are conveying.

Sample calculations do help me figure out what you are doing - but are not necessary for simple calculations.

Make sure language is clear. "The voltage was 5.67 V." What voltage? What were you actually measuring? "The accelerating voltage for the electrons was 5.67 V."

Do not write a lab manual. This is a report of what you did - not instructions.

If you are reporting on what you did, it is seldom appropriate to use future tense.

You might number the pages - I found some that were out of order and did not make sense the way they were stapled together !!

Average report was about 5 pages of text plus graphs and tables.