Parts of a Formal Lab

**Purpose:** The purpose will always be the question that you want answered. Usually the purpose of the lab is always posted on the board the day of the lab.

Ex: Will the plant grow best under green or red light?

**Hypothesis:** This is your educated guess on the purpose/problem you are trying to solve. Always give an explanation of your hypothesis in the statement.

Ex: **I think** the plant will grow best under green light **because** the wave frequency is closer in alignment to natural light.

**Materials:** The materials section is always devoted to everything you needed to perform the lab. All lab equipment that you use in addition to the materials used within the lab should be stated/listed under the materials section.

Ex: Triple beam balance light bulb (green) light bulb (red) 50 grams of potting soil 2 individual violet plants ruler 50 ml of water

**Procedures:** This is the step-by step directions on how you performed your lab. You would be writing the procedures as if they were a detailed recipe for someone to follow if he/she were not in the lab that day to participate. These procedures when read would allow an individual to perform the lab exactly how you performed it.

**Data:** Fill in your data section as you perform your lab. Be sure to include all appropriate SI units when measuring.

**Analyze:** Always answer each question giving appropriate explanation.

**Conclusion:** In your conclusion you are stating whether your hypothesis was correct or incorrect, and why. Remember to always add the word because and explain your hypothesis.

For example: My hypothesis was correct **because** the plant grew 6 cm higher under the green light than the same exact plant under the red light.