The process of writing a lab report can be daunting, especially when you're enrolled in multiple labs per week. Never fear, though! This resource will allow the task

If you are writing in APA format, your abstract should appear on the second page. In a lab report, the purpose of the abstract is to attract your audience and provide a brief preview to summarize the content of the report. The abstract title is centered, and it is not bolded or underlined. The body of

Introduction

The main body of your report begins with the introduction. No header is needed for this section because it is assumed that the first section is the introduction. The introduction should present the concept being investigated and provide background information.

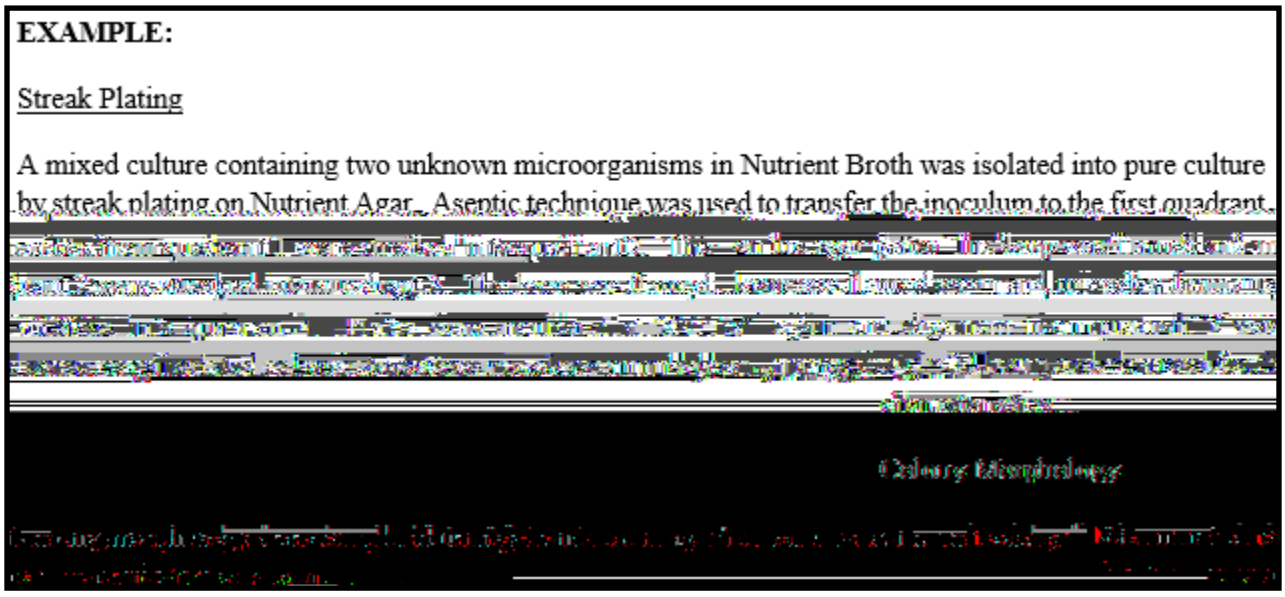
- State your purpose for conducting the experiment.
- List and explain any parameters being measured in the experiment, and provide any mathematical formulas used to obtain data.
- Include any information that was given to you prior to the experiment (example: the specific heat of water).
- When including scientific names, make sure to italicize them (e.g., *Homo sapien*).
- Discuss any tables or figures that will be included in your report, making sure to identify the variables.
- Your hypothesis/ predictions should also go in the introduction.
- This section should never be written in first person.
- When citing sources, be sure to include the author's last name and year of publication (Author, 2015).

Note: This example uses APA 6. Please ask your instructor what format they prefer.

Methods ⟶ boldface type, left-aligned

Be straight forward with the procedure – give enough information for an individual to be able to replicate the experiment. Make sure you specify the volumes and concentrations. Include any equipment used during your experiment. Do not forget to include units, temperature, time, etc. Make subheadings for detailed methods (italicized or underlined, left-aligned), and be sure to include a statement of purpose for each procedure. Exclude extraneous information that is assumed by the scientific community, such as labeling test tubes, clean-up procedures, or using aseptic technique.

This section should be written in past tense. Avoid transitions such as “first”, “next”, or “last”.



EXAMPLE:

Streak Plating

A mixed culture containing two unknown microorganisms in Nutrient Broth was isolated into pure culture by streak plating on Nutrient Agar. Aseptic technique was used to transfer the inoculum to the first quadrant.

Results boldface type, left-aligned

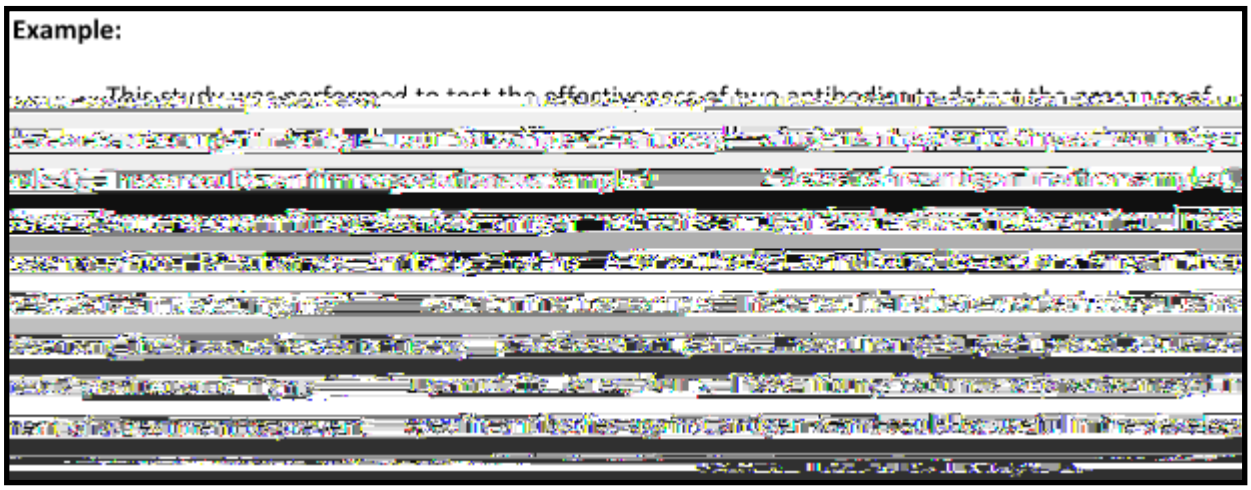
This is where any tables or figures should be inserted. Make sure each figure has a relevant and detailed title. The title should be bolded. Also, each figure should have a caption underneath it, and tables should include legends, if

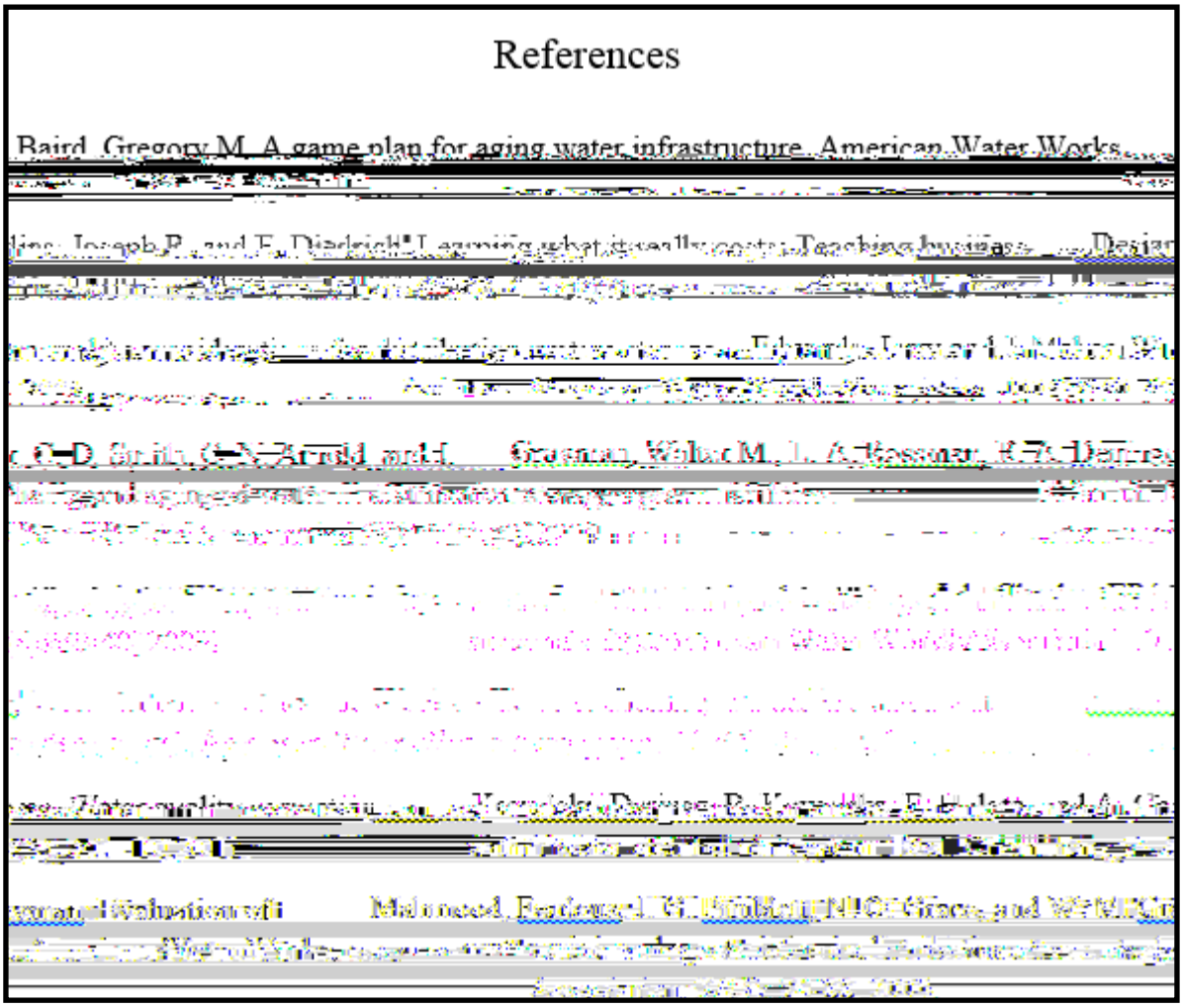
Discussion ⟶ boldface type, left-aligned

This section is where you discuss what the data means, and it is also the time to make interpretations based on your findings. You should begin your discussion by restating your purpose, as well as why the study is important.

- State whether or not the results support/refute your hypothesis/predictions and why.
- Make sure to continuously refer back to figures/tables.
- Include and cite outside sources to support your conclusions – ask your instructor about source requirements.
- It is a good idea to organize the paragraphs in the discussion by the conclusions you made. Each paragraph should include a conclusion, support, and its relevance to the study/outside scientific applications.

End with a general summary of your conclusions, along with how they relate to what is already known about the topic. The tense in this section varies between present, past, and future. Present is appropriate when discussing accepted scientific knowledge, and past should be used when discussing data/describing new findings. Future tense should be used to describe how this information can be useful in future scientific applications.





These are some examples of citations in the bibliography section. Sources should