

# Lab Notebooks

Notebooks for this class should contain pages that are sewn into the binding, **not** spiral-bound, perfect-bound, nor looseleaf. Your notebook should include your dated observations, including sketches, your hypotheses to be tested, your predictions, your experimental procedures and protocols, measurements, data tables, preliminary graphs and anything that happens during the lab that you think might **ever** be useful, interesting, amusing or important.

Your notebook is your first line of evidence, your “receipt” for every transaction between you and the universe of discovery, and it is the source of information and inspiration from which the brilliance of a lab report takes its being.

Expect that it will be examined to see that it includes all of the above. Neatness is nice, but not the highest value. Being complete and truthful is more important than being tidy. The exception will be your “plates,” well-laid out, labelled drawings of organisms that include scale information (most often the microscopic magnification) as appropriate. Don't wait until you get home so you can do a pretty job of it.

Record it and date it as it happens, while the impressions are fresh in memory. Each page will be numbered and dated. Pencil is O.K. for sketches only. Erasures and “white-out” are not acceptable. Errors should be lined out (single line) and corrections added.