

## Writing the Materials and Methods Section of a Lab Report

### ***Learning Objectives:***

- Discuss the purpose of a materials and methods section
- Analyze sample materials and methods sections from an undergraduate lab report to identify the ways in which they successfully demonstrate scientific writing
- Select essential details to include in a materials and methods section
- Refer to and cite lab manual according to instructions

### ***Learning to Write Scientifically***

As in BIOL 1110, a major component of your learning in the lab component of this course focuses on the ability to communicate clearly and according to the expectations of the scientific community. This module introduces you to the expectations for a materials and methods section. Much of your work will involve analyzing two example materials and methods sections, evaluating how each meets (or fails to meet) the criteria for effective lab report writing.

### **Content of a Materials and Methods Section – What did you do exactly?**

#### **How did you do it?**

When you are using a procedure from the lab manual it is sufficient to refer to and cite the lab manual once at the beginning of the methods section using the following format and then follow with the description of the experimental design in your own words:

“This experiment was performed with modifications as described in the BIOL 1110 lab manual (Faculty of Science and Horticulture, 2017).”

Clearly outline the basic design of the study, and how you did the experiment, along with what methods, materials, and equipment you used. Part of writing an effective materials and methods section involves including only relevant details. You want to give enough information so that your experiment can be reproduced by others in your field, but not so many details that your reader gets lost in the minutiae (i.e. trivial details that are unnecessary to understanding the experimental design).

In your description include relevant measures (exact concentrations, times, number of replicates, etc.), and a section on how you will analyze the results (e.g. statistical formulas, reaction rates, etc.) in paragraph form.

The materials and methods section should be written in past tense as the experiment has already been completed. Any changes that you bring to the prescribed procedure must be documented in this section. Tip: You should write this section first, shortly after completing your lab activity while your memory is fresh.

Answer the following questions as you consider the purpose of a materials and methods section:

1. Why is a materials and methods section included in a standard lab report?
2. Consider examples of professional writing in the scientific community (e.g. journal articles). Why do scientists share the methods used in their research?

# Materials And Methods In Lab Report

**Massachusetts Agricultural  
Experiment Station**



## Materials And Methods In Lab Report:

*Bio Lab Basics* Speedy Publishing, 2014-08-06 A bio lab might be host to a number of dangerous lifeforms and substances including diseases and other biological threats Even when it is not good sanitation and a thorough understand of lab safety is an essential part of keeping the lab in good working order For a new biology student getting the right understanding of lab safety procedures is something that can make a huge difference to how smoothly they work in the lab and how they can protect themselves and others      Successful Lab Reports Christopher S. Lobban, MarLa Schefter, 1992-02-28 Shows science students how to write a clear and to the point laboratory report      **Resources in Education** ,1976      Resources in Vocational Education ,1980      Proceedings of the Annual Meeting - American Society for Testing Materials American Society for Testing Materials, 1925      U.S. Government Research & Development Reports ,1970      Proceedings - American Society for Testing and Materials American Society for Testing and Materials, 1913 Vols 61 66 include technical papers      *Proceedings ... Papers, Reports, Discussions, Etc., Printed in the Journal of Engineering Education* American Society for Engineering Education, 1915      **Biology** Warren D. Dolphin, 1991      **Annual Report** Indiana. Department of Geology and Natural Resources, 1906      **Report** Indiana. Department of Geology and Natural Resources, 1906 The 15th report covers the years 1885 86      **Materials of engineering construction** ,1916      **Annual Report of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station** Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, 1914      **Transactions: Materials for engineering construction. 1916. v. 656 p., 1 diagr., 1 map. 2 tables** ,1916      **Bulletin - Engineering Experiment Station** Purdue University. Engineering Experiment Station, 1925      Otto E. Miller, Plaintiff-Respondent, Against Fred W. Smythe, Defendant-Appellant ,      *Resources in Vocational Education* ,1981      **Proceedings of the ... Annual Meeting** Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education (U.S.). Annual Meeting, 1915      *The Cement Age; a Magazine Devoted to the Uses of Cement* ,1910      General Catalog Georgia Institute of Technology, 1920

## Unveiling the Power of Verbal Art: An Mental Sojourn through **Materials And Methods In Lab Report**

In a world inundated with displays and the cacophony of instantaneous communication, the profound power and psychological resonance of verbal artistry usually diminish into obscurity, eclipsed by the constant barrage of noise and distractions. However, located within the musical pages of **Materials And Methods In Lab Report**, a interesting function of literary splendor that impulses with organic emotions, lies an unique journey waiting to be embarked upon. Written by way of a virtuoso wordsmith, this magical opus books visitors on an emotional odyssey, gently revealing the latent potential and profound affect stuck within the intricate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of this evocative evaluation, we will embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is main subjects, dissect their interesting writing style, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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## Materials And Methods In Lab Report Introduction

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