Model lab report handout.

Name:

Lab title:

Introduction

In this section, you will outline the ideas you are going to explore through experimentation. Do not use bullets; instead, discuss the concepts in question in a few paragraphs.

For your first lab report, I have provided some questions to guide you. Your first paragraph will answer the question: "What is a mealworm?" In your answer, tell me about the mealworm's life and habits. From your readings, you know the characteristics of insects. Is a mealworm an insect? How do you know? Do some research and present facts about them. Use in-text citations for any information you get from another source.

Based on what you know about mealworms from your research, what sort of behavior would you expect them to exhibit? You can include some of your initial observations in your second paragraph. This is setting the stage for the research you conducted and why you selected the problem you did.

For your last paragraph, write a hypothesis. You have already done this as part of the procedure. Now put your hypothesis in the correct form, which is the "If…then…" format. After you write the statement, explain why you think that will happen.

Materials and methods

For most labs, you will use the statement: "Refer to lab handout." The exceptions to this statement are the times during which you write your own procedure. In those instances, you will write the steps that you followed in paragraph form, citing specific directions and materials within these paragraphs.

Data and analysis of results

All data charts go in this section, followed by the answered questions from the lab handout. Questions must be numbered and answered in complete, grammatically correct sentences. Any graphs should be drawn by hand and attached to this section.

Conclusion

This section is also in paragraph form. Here, you will discuss the entire experiment. Begin by summarizing the experiment and your results. Address your hypothesis, stating how the experiment proves or disproves your hypothesis. Weave your discussion around the scientific principles in question. As you discuss your results, cite potential sources of error and how that affected your experiment. Finally, propose other ways the data could be collected to avoid the sources of error you cited.