

Abstract:

An abstract may or may not be a required component of your lab report. Most published scientific papers now include an abstract, which is a completely self-contained summary of the actual results and conclusions of the experimental work. The abstract is a brief but thorough statement of the outcome(s) of the experiment and should therefore be no more than one to three sentences long. The abstract should be written in the present tense and passive voice. If an abstract is required for your lab report, it should be the first block of text that appears after the title. Even though the abstract appears *first* in your lab report, it is often useful to write this section last, after you've made sense of and come to some conclusion(s) about your results.

Example: *Benzophenone is synthesized in 75% yield from benzene and benzoyl chloride using a Friedel-Crafts acylation. The product is a white, crystalline solid (MP 100 °C) after recrystallization from 95% ethanol, and gives an IR spectrum consistent with an authentic sample.*