

## How to Write an Introduction Section

### Expectations from Lab Report Guidelines Document

“The goal of this section is to introduce the topic of the experiment. You should state what you are trying to find out from the experimental investigation, or why you are doing the experiment. You should also define biology terms and explain biology concepts that are essential to understanding the experiment. This section should include any relevant information that will guide your experimental design or analysis and describe the expected results of your experiment.”

### General Principles

- The Introduction should be written in paragraphs, not in bullet points or unconnected answers to questions.
- In your opening sentence you should answer whichever of the following questions is relevant.
  - *“Why is this experiment being done?”*
  - *“What do you hope to learn by doing this experiment?”*
  - *“What task are you completing by doing this experiment?”*
- Important terms relevant to this experiment should be defined and explained. These terms could include pieces of equipment that will be used.
- Important biology concepts relevant to this experiment should be described and explained. In particular any information related to how you will design the experiment or analyze the results based on the relevant biology concepts should be explicitly stated.
- In many labs I will present you with a collection of guiding questions to ensure you recognize the relevant terms and concepts. The questions **should not** be answered individually, but instead the answers should be presented in paragraphs.
- Your audience in the Introduction is an educated person who is unfamiliar with your field of study. The Introduction should provide them with enough background information that they could understand the rest of your report.