

Writing Assignment 1 (Beginning of semester reflection on previous experiences and expectations)

1. Why have you chosen to take this advanced research-based laboratory course and what are you expecting to get out of it?
2. Have you undertaken a research project previously? Describe it.
3. What are you expecting to be different in this research course experience from your normal coursework?
4. What skills do you think you need to be a good researcher?
5. In your past laboratory courses or research experience, what have you done to prepare before arriving in lab to do an experiment?
6. Did you write procedures in your notebook before arriving, during, or at the end of the experiment?
7. Did you record observations in your notebook as you went along or wait until the end?
8. Have you been required to write lab reports in the past? If so, please describe them.
9. How much time have you spent in and outside of lab on your notebook in the past?
10. How often did the experimental procedure you performed deviate from the procedure given to you before lab and/or from the procedure written in your notebook?
11. How did you organize data (ex NMR, GC, UV-vis, excel graphs), or pictures?
12. In your experience, what skills are important for keeping your notebook organized and up to date? Which of these do you find most challenging? What would you like to focus on improving this semester?
13. What do you think is the role of the laboratory notebook in a college classroom? In a research laboratory? In an industry laboratory?