**Laboratory Report: Discussions and Conclusions**

The discussion/conclusion section of a lab report has several purposes:

1. Explain the results.
   * The results show that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I predicted that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so these results **(do/ do not)** support my hypothesis.
2. Interpret the results. How can the information from this experiment be used?
   * This means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (You are explaining what can be done with this information)
3. Evaluate your experimental design.
   * Some errors that occurred during this experiment were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This could have influenced the results because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   * This experiment can be improved by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Describe the “next steps”: what new (but related) questions arise from this experiment?
   * Based on this experiment, the next question I’d like to test is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because this will help us determine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| Restate the question- | The question investigated in this experiment was…. |
| Restate the hypothesis- | It was hypothesized that…. |
| Was the hypothesis correct or incorrect? | The results of this experiment proved that my hypothesis was…… because….. |
| State the conclusion (what was the answer to the question?) |  |
| Support your conclusion with specific data (refer to numbers in your tables and graphs) |  |
| Give at least 2 supporting statements about the validity of your results (were there any errors? things that went wrong?) | The results may not be valid because….  1.   2. |
| Give at least 2 statements about how to improve the experiment (what could you do differently?) | When performing this experiment again, it will be important to ….  1.  2. |
| Give examples that relate to real life and/or to the topics we have studied. | These results are related to ……. because….. |
| Describe the “next steps”: what new (but related) questions arise from this experiment? | Based on this experiment, the next question I’d like to test is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because this will help us determine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |