

Feedback on First Lab Report (and Sundry Announcements)

I was generally quite pleased with both the writing and scientific content of your first set of lab reports. Most pairs earned an A or an A- for their work. Lower grades reflect either significant scientific errors or problems with the clarity and coherence of your writing.

As Rob has explained, experiments with lab reports (that is, Experiments 3, 6, and 8) are each worth 50 points. Forty of these points are based on the report; the other ten are based on the “normal” lab expectations such as the ASA, quality of note-taking, and correctness of calculations.

Both Emma and I assign letter grades to papers. Here is a chart “translating” letter grades to point values:

| First Draft Graded by Emma Whitcomb Total Possible Points = 15 | | Final Draft Graded by Keith Kuwata Total Possible Points = 25 | | | |
|--|--------|---|--------|----------------|--------|
| | | <u>Content</u> | | <u>Writing</u> | |
| Grade | Points | Grade | Points | Grade | Points |
| A | 15 | A | 15 | A | 10 |
| A- | 14 | A- | 14 | A- | 9 |
| B+ | 12 | B+ | 12 | B+ | 8 |
| B | 10 | B | 10 | B | 6 |
| B- | 8 | B- | 8 | B- | 5 |
| C+ | 6 | C+ | 6 | C+ | 4 |

I think the process of going through a first draft with Emma was helpful for most people. Keep up the good work with your second lab report! Remember that they are due this Wednesday, November 3. Again, Emma will grade the first draft and meet with you the following week to discuss your work.

Note the following non-lab activities for the next two Thursdays:

- Thursday, November 4: Meet in the DeWitt Wallace Library’s Instruction Room (on the second floor) at 8:30 a.m. We will be learning about the college’s considerable scientific literature resources. This will be extremely helpful as you begin work on your final paper (see other handout).
- Thursday, November 11: Experiment 7 (on calorimetry) has been canceled. This will give you more time to work on your final paper!