

Lab Report Format for CSC 270

While doing each experiment

- Record observations along the way – those things asked for in the lab as well as other results and questions you encounter along the way
- Sketch a circuit diagram for each experiment, including the wiring information
- Think about what you expect for results and what you expect to learn before doing each experiment (this will help you to identify unexpected results along the way)
- Make notes on things you are learning, and things you think you should be learning, to review later

For each experiment in the report you hand in, include:

- Number and title for the experiment
- The objective, goal, purpose of the experiment
- The steps to perform the experiment (these can be copied from the lab handout if that helps you, but be sure to go through what is in the handout and ensure it makes sense for your write-up, checking things such as verb tense, and taking out instructions that are not necessary for the write-up)
- Figures (diagrams, tables...)
 - Circuit and wiring diagrams. You can simply label the chip pins, or can include a full picture as needed
 - Other figures as needed
 - Intermediate results, such as truth tables, measure voltages...
 - Reference to (and explanations as needed) of diagrams, tables... in the text
 - Title / Caption for each diagram, figure and table
- Observations along the way,
 - Include anything unexpected (and an explanation if possible – why it was unexpected, what you did expect, why you might have gotten this result – perhaps this is the correct one and your expectation was wrong, perhaps your expectation was correct...)
 - In the actual write-up, keep your observations (what you did) separate from the steps you took to do the experiment (what was given to you)
- Answers to questions in the lab handout, with an explanation as appropriate
- Results
 - State what the results were and explain what they mean (there might be an overlap with the ‘Lessons’ and ‘Answers’ sections. If so, only include the information once)
 - If you do not get the results you expect, record the results you did get, and explain what you expected, and include an explanation as to why you think your results might be incorrect – what happened so you got unexpected results
- Lessons learned, with figures if that helps your explanation