## **Bio 201 Lab Report Guidelines**

-Label each section. I need to know what I am looking at. Your paper should look like the one on the left.

Purpose		Purpose
Methods	Not->	Methods

- -In the purpose tell me what the objective of the exercise was and make sure to include the key points.
- -In the methods cite the lab book and then tell me what was done differently. Also, state which lab we are looking at in the methods section.
- -In the Results tell me what happened. In the discussion tell me why everything happened the way it did.
- -Figures and tables should stand alone and should be labeled correctly(with the appropriate units).
- -Cite everything that comes from something other than you. If you like what your text has to say, write it in your own words, and use a citation to tell me you got your ideas from the textbook, i.e., (Purves et al., 98).
- -Don't be wordy. Say things so they flow (choppy sentences are hard to read).
- -A hypothesis comes before you do the experiment. Don't write a hypothesis in your papers.
- -Make sure you use double spacing so that I can write comments.
- -Don't eliminate data points that we do not talk about first in class. If we decide to eliminate a data point make sure you mention it in your paper.
- -Do not use words like clearly, obviously, or significantly. The things in these labs do not fit into the obvious, clear, or significant category. We deal with probably, most likely, and noticeably.
- -Proofread your papers at least once.
- -If you work with another 201 student while writing your papers make sure that it does not sound exactly like that students paper. Later you might get into big trouble for plagiarism.