

CHEMISTRY WRITTEN REPORT READING SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

You are to write a two to four paragraph typewritten report describing a scientific article that you have read. This report does not need to be more than one page and can be less but it should be at least ½ page long (using a reasonable type size, ie., not larger than 12 pt) covering the questions like those described below. This length does NOT include any heading you may use – it is the length of your writing itself. However, do not forget paragraphs!

The article you read must be from a **valid scientific journal** and some other sources. I will have a number of these sources available for you to look at in the Chemistry room if you cannot find your own. You can ask Mrs. Winkler for some help in finding journals. You may also search in the internet. (Note: There are sources that use “science” in the name but they are not an acceptable source for this report. Just because a magazine has the word “science” in its title does not make it a real journal.) A report from a non-conforming source will be either graded down or returned. *See below for some examples of acceptable and unacceptable sources for articles.*

It is not mandatory that the article be chemical in nature but must be scientific in nature. Try to use an article that is less than one year old. You get favorable points if there is a graph involved, but you need to talk about the graph in your report. **Do not forget to include a proper reference citation for the article even if you give me a copy of the article.** If there is a graph you want to use, it helps me if you could have a copy of it with your report.

At least one paragraph should be an explanation of the article describing the experiment or other subject of the article. At least one paragraph must be your thoughts about the article. By this I mean not just another summary of the article, but your response to the article.

You are to write one report a quarter. This must be in my hands by the due date for the quarter. There will be no exceptions! If you are going to be sick, hand in the report early. If you cannot come to school for some reason, have someone bring the report in for you. You may include a copy of the article (but it is not required) attached to your report but **DO NOT** tear it out of the magazine – that is why God, Xerox, Canon, etc. made copiers.

You may also e-mail your Written Report to me [reports16(at)thinkchemistry(dot)com or reports165(at)thinkchemistry(dot)org, or my Nerinx address] but it must still also include a proper reference for the article, etc. you are writing about even if you attach or paste a copy of the article.

Furthermore, please understand that you may hand in your Written Report at any time during the quarter up to the due date. Except for it having to be in by the due day there is no restriction on how early you may submit it. *There is no extra credit for getting this Report in early.*

* A report for a scientific article describing an experiment should answer the following kinds of questions (but do not just answer the questions directly) :

1. What is the name and date of the article you read, and in what publication?
2. What is the topic of the experiment?
3. If you are not reading a primary publication (the first place information about this experiment was published) give the name and date of the periodical in which the report of the experiment first appeared if you can find it.
4. What hypothesis did the researchers set out to prove?
5. Describe the experiment. What results did the researchers find?
6. What conclusion came from the experiment? Was the hypothesis proved or not? Were the conclusions supported by the data?
7. What new observations and questions arose from this experiment?
8. What did you think about this work?

* A report for a scientific article that does not specifically describe an experiment should answer the following kinds of questions:

1. What is the name and date of the article you read, and in what publication?
2. What is the topic or purpose of the article?
3. What hypothesis or point did the researchers set out to prove?
4. What conclusion did the author(s) come to? Was there enough explanation to convince you of the argument or not?
5. What did you think about this work?

Note, however, that neither of the two sets of kinds of questions listed above are given to imply that you just answer those and you have successfully completed your report. They are just presented so that I might spark your thinking about your article.

If you have any questions about your article (source, length, subject, appropriateness of topic, how to work with the topic, etc.) please see me before you are ready to hand in your Report.

This is supposed to be fun!

Acceptable Sources:

- *Scientific American* *
- *Chemical and Engineering News* *
- *National Geographic Magazine*
- *Science* *
- *Discover Magazine*
- *Journal of the American Medical Association*
- *Journal of the American Chemical Society*
- *Journal of the New York Academy of Science*
- *Chemical Reports*
- *Missouri Conservationist* *
- *Natural History Magazine* *
- *Chemical Heritage* *
- *Journal of Nursing*

* – Recent copies of these journals and magazines are available in N4

Unacceptable Sources:

- *Popular Science*
- *Science Daily*
- *The New York Times*
- *BBC*

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