

Key Questions to Ask

Below you'll find a list of questions relevant to your lab experience. Record your answers to these questions, so that you can refer to them after the experiment, when you write your report.

Understanding The Experiment

- What am I going to do in this lab?
- What scientific concepts does this lab cover?
- How am I going to perform the experiment?
- Why am I performing the experiment in this way?
- What do I think will be the most challenging part of this experiment?
- When I finish the lab, what techniques will I better understand?
- Why would I/we/my audience benefit from concepts explored in this lab?
- What is my hypothesis(es) for this lab?
- Why did I develop this hypothesis (reasoning)?

Understanding The Assignment

- Who is your audience for your report?
- Will you need to include research from outside sources in the report?
- How important is this assignment for your grade?
- How long will it take to write this report?

Understanding Instructor Expectations

- Why does your instructor want you to think through this problem?
- How does the assignment fit into the goals of the particular unit of the course?
- How does the assignment fit into the overall goals of the course?
- What concepts or techniques does your instructor most want you to learn?
- Are there previous concepts or techniques that your instructor now wants you to master?
- What does your instructor value in writing?