

A general guide to Observations and Data Recording

Experimental Observations:

Take the time and effort to record pertinent observations about the experiment. You do not have to detail out the procedure in your handout but rather comment on it.

- 1) Sensory data:
 - a. Record the color, phase and texture of all reagents, solutions and products.
 - b. Record any remarkable smells.
 - c. Record color changes: from _____ to _____.
 - d. Record heat changes (measure with a thermometer is possible).
- 2) Time.
 - a. Record how long the different parts of the experiment took.
 - b. Record overall laboratory time.
- 3) Techniques.
 - a. Observe things that could have affected the yield
 - b. Observe things that could have affected purity.
 - c. Observe things that could have affected time.
- 4) Comments relevant to published procedure:
 - a. Did you deviate from the manual/handout at any point?
 - b. Did anything unexpected happen?
 - c. Are any clarifications required in procedure?
- 5) The experimental observations should be written in the impersonal passive voice past tense in the lab.

No → "I recrystallized naphthalene."

Yes → "Naphthalene was recrystallized."

Data Recording:

Neatly record your "raw data" during the lab.

- 1) Show all calculations such as weighing results in your book.
- 2) Indicate if any data has been shared and/or borrowed
- 3) Write down the make and model of analytical instruments used to obtain data.