

quantitative results support your discussion and your conclusions? Is it clear that your theory and your procedure are about the same experiment? Be sure that you proofread everything carefully!

A typical scientific journal article might be about ten pages long. Your full lab reports will probably be shorter. Try to limit yourself to the equivalent of four or five single-spaced typewritten pages of text, not counting graphs and diagrams. This means that few of the five major sections will exceed a page in length and some will be shorter.

There are also some items you should leave out of a lab report. Please don't complain about the equipment; I already know that if we had an infinite budget, we could buy better equipment. However, you won't have an infinite budget in real life either. Even if your equipment budget *is* large, you will always be making measurements that require care and ingenuity to make. Sometimes the equipment you would like doesn't even exist! Experimental physics isn't about making really precise measurements so much as it is about making the best measurements you can with the equipment you have. By practicing with the admittedly limited equipment available now, you prepare yourself for those later measurements when you can't improve the data simply by spending more money.