

## Chem 371

### Lab Report Guidelines

In keeping with the analogy to research work, the laboratory reports in this course follow the format of published research papers in the field, as might appear in one of the standard journals (e.g., *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*). A scientific paper is a collection of data with an organized description of hypotheses and conclusions, intended to instruct the reader. The objective of a research scientist is to formulate and test hypotheses, to draw conclusions from these tests, and to teach these conclusions to others. Reports should emulate the overall style of published work in the field of inorganic chemistry, and you are encouraged to peruse the journals in the library for examples of standard scientific presentation. A word *template for electronic submission*, adapted from the *Inorganic Chemistry* journal template, is available on the course homepage. The following are some basic guidelines to consider before preparing your lab reports:

- Reports should be concise and free of redundant presentation of readily available information.
- Do not paraphrase the theory and procedures outlined in the experiment description.
- Data and calculated results should be neatly and completely presented with appropriate units.
- Structural images are essential in presenting lab reports. Only chem draw figures will be accepted. Do not copy+ paste from the www.

Follow the *template for electronic submission* for required page format and text style. Use of standard English (complete sentences, etc.) and standard chemical/IUPAC notation is essential. The definitive reference for chemists on these matters is *The ACS Style Guide*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Oxford University Press, 2006, although earlier editions are also suitable.