SPH **Writing an Informal Lab Report (QuickLabs)**

Formal lab reports are time-consuming to write. Most QuickLabs in this course will be less structured. However, this does not mean you don't have put the same care into the analysis. To write-up a QuickLab on a separate sheet of paper,

- Do **not** include a separate title page

- Write the section, title, and page number (if from the text) of the lab at the top of the page
  e.g.: "4.4.2: The Efficiency of a Ramp, pp. 143-144"

or

  "The Components of Projectile Motion (HO)" for handouts

- Write the date the lab was performed and the date the report is due clearly at the top of the page.

- Write the purpose of the QuickLab. Copy only the question or problem statement from the lab. Do not copy the accompanying discussion.
  E.g.: "What patterns exists in the horizontal and vertical components of projectile velocity?"

- If the lab asks you to formulate a hypothesis about the outcome, you must do so and I will confirm this **before** you start the lab.

- Write a brief summary of the procedure. See *Writing a Formal Lab Report*.

- Answer the questions in the order they appear in the book or handout. You may attach any data sheets or graphs at the end and refer to them at the appropriate place with a page number.
  E.g. "(c) acceleration-time graph on pg. 4 of report"

- Rewrite the question in your answer. I should be able to read your report without having to refer to the textbook or handout.
  E.g. "(d) It would increase" is meaningless. What is "it" and when/why would it increase?

- If there are multiple sets of calculations to be done, do **one** sample calculation clearly and omit the rest for brevity. Put the results in a table, if appropriate.

- When answering analysis and synthesis questions, make sure your answers are based on **your** experimental results and not what you think you should be getting. If your experimental results differ wildly from accepted theory, be prepared to discuss possible errors.

- While we can't avoid human error entirely, it is something we want to reduce during the lab. Perform your labs carefully to avoid systematic error. Do enough trials to reduce random error. Human error is an unacceptable source of major errors and will result in lost marks.

- When asked to discuss sources of error, avoid facetious answers and more lost marks. The value of *g* and the air pressure will not vary significantly in the room. Think about any assumptions you have made while doing your calculations – what simplifications have you made that might affect the outcome?