General Outline

**Stage 1 Biology Lab Reports (3rd person)**

**Title Page**

* Neat, name

**Abstract**

* This is the first thing in your report after the title page, but the last thing you write. The abstract is a very brief summary of what was investigated, some key points on how it was done, the findings and whether it confirmed the hypothesis.

**Introduction**

* Background to the lab and the concepts being examined/tested
* Any key terms that need to be defined
* The general purpose/aim
* Indication of your hypothesis (if you the lab involves one)

*Length: 2 medium paragraphs as a guide*

**Materials**

* List in dot points the key equipment and supplies
* “Refer to Lab Handout” – in some cases this will suffice

**Method**

* Key steps and safety precautions listed in numerical fashion
* Another person must be able to replicate what you have done by following the steps
* Some drawings of setup of apparatus may be appropriate
* “Refer to Lab Handout” – in some cases this will suffice

**Results**

* Accurate record of observations with appropriate titles/labels
* Could include pictures, tables, graphs, etc.

**Discussion**

* Question answers – some labs may have analysis questions to do.
* A discussion of your findings and their significance – this requires thinking and application of your knowledge
* Refer to your observations and hypothesis (if you made one) and discuss what was expected/unexpected
* Discuss your variables (controlled, independent, dependent) and their significance
* Evaluate the method and results for any possible sources of error: random or systematic
* Evaluate the method to suggest improvements
* Any further questions that come from your findings, and further tests that could be done?

**Conclusion**

* A brief summary of the investigation, your learning, and link to your original aim/purpose/hypothesis.

*Length: 2-3 sentences*