

**EXPERIMENTING SKILLS*****Doing a Lab Write-up***

A lab write-up form is a handy way to keep track of your progress at every step of an investigation. It's also a useful tool for summarizing your results. On the next page you will see a copy of a lab write-up form. Look at that form while reading the following description of each category.

**Looking at a Lab Write-up**

Your lab write-up should be organized into the following categories:

- A. Title:** This is the name of the lab.
- B. Objective:** This is the purpose of the lab, which is usually either to answer a question or to test a hypothesis. The following is an example of each type of objective:
  - How do erosion and deposition take place along a riverbed? (question)
  - Erosion and deposition along a riverbed are predominantly caused by water. (hypothesis)
- C. Materials:** This section lists, in the order they are used, all the equipment, chemicals, or specimens needed to complete the investigation.
- D. Procedure:** These are the step-by-step instructions for doing the investigation.
- E. Data/Observations:** Record all the information you collect and all the observations you make here.
- F. Discussion:** This is where you explain your results and observations, and describe what you think your data mean or prove. Use your data and observations to make inferences. Also report whether your hypothesis was correct or not.

**Your Turn!**

Perform the quick investigation below. As you do, fill out each section of the lab write-up on the next page.

**SPACE CASE**

Does air have volume? Find out by doing the following experiment:

1. Crumple a piece of notebook paper, and place it in the bottom of a paper or plastic-foam cup so the paper fits tightly.
2. Turn the cup upside down. (The crumpled paper should not fall out of the cup.) Lower the cup straight down into a larger beaker or bucket half-filled with water until the cup is completely underwater.
3. Lift the cup straight out of the water. Turn the cup upright, and observe the paper. Record your observations.
4. Punch a small hole in the bottom of the cup with the point of a pencil. Repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. How do these results show that air has volume? Record your explanation on the lab write-up sheet on the next page.

