

Rough draft of background section (due Friday, October 4th)

Purpose of the background section:

- To explain scientific terms and concepts that someone needs to know in order to understand your experiment and project.
- To show and explain important chemical equations, math equations, and diagrams.

Background section:

- The background section should be between 2 to 5 pages double spaced with a 12pt font with normal 1 inch margins
- The background section needs to be in your own words. This means that you paraphrase or summarize information from your sources. You will need to give credit to those sources or it is considered plagiarism. You can have some direct quotes as well.
- The length depends on your topic, diagrams and the information needed to understand your project.
- Use your notes from your Research Notebook to help you determine the information that you want to put in.
- The background section does not include information about your experiment (procedure, materials, data)

Citing sources within your background section:

- The background section of your research paper needs to show where all of your information came from.
- To do this, you refer to your reference list within the paragraphs (in text citations).

In text citations:

- You put the author and year in parentheses at the end of a sentence or paragraph of paraphrased information from a particular source.

Example:

Temperature has an effect on the rate of a chemical reaction (Smith, 2011).

- If there is not author given, you can...
 - 1) use the title or the first few words of the title
 - 2) use the organization or company name as the author.

Examples:

("Collecting a gas", 2010)

(Bayer Healthcare, 2009)

- If there is no date give, you can put "n.d." for no date in the citation.

Example:

(Smith, n.d.)