sample lab report chemistry

sample lab report chemistry is a vital resource for students, educators, and professionals seeking to excel in laboratory documentation and scientific communication. A well-crafted chemistry lab report not only presents experimental results but also demonstrates a clear understanding of scientific principles, procedures, and analysis. This comprehensive article explores the essential components of a sample lab report in chemistry, highlights best practices for writing and formatting, and provides tips to maximize clarity and accuracy. Readers will learn how to structure each section, what details to include, and how to present data effectively. Whether you're preparing a high school assignment, college coursework, or professional documentation, mastering the art of the chemistry lab report is crucial for academic and scientific success. This guide covers the purpose, format, and common pitfalls of chemistry lab reports, ensuring you gain confidence in your scientific writing abilities.

- Understanding the Purpose of a Chemistry Lab Report
- Essential Sections of a Sample Lab Report Chemistry
- Formatting Guidelines and Best Practices
- Tips for Effective Scientific Writing
- Common Mistakes to Avoid in Chemistry Lab Reports
- Conclusion

Understanding the Purpose of a Chemistry Lab Report

A sample lab report chemistry serves as a formal record of laboratory experiments, observations, and findings. Its primary purpose is to communicate scientific results and reasoning in a clear, organized manner. Lab reports enable others to replicate experiments, verify results, and understand the methodology behind the research. In academic settings, chemistry lab reports are essential for developing students' scientific writing skills and demonstrating mastery of laboratory techniques. For professionals, these reports provide documentation for quality control, research, and development, ensuring transparency and accountability in scientific work.

Importance of Accurate Documentation

Accurate documentation in a chemistry lab report is critical for reproducibility and validation. Every detail, from the materials used to the procedures followed, must be recorded precisely. This ensures that the experiment can be repeated by others and that the results are reliable. Thorough documentation also helps identify potential sources of error and supports scientific integrity.

Role in Scientific Communication

Lab reports are a foundational element of scientific communication. They translate complex experiments into understandable, structured narratives. By following established conventions, such as standardized sections and terminology, chemistry lab reports allow scientists and students to share knowledge effectively and advance research in the field.

Essential Sections of a Sample Lab Report Chemistry

Each chemistry lab report follows a specific structure that organizes information for maximum clarity. Below are the essential sections found in a typical sample lab report chemistry:

- 1. Title Page
- 2. Abstract
- 3. Introduction
- 4. Materials and Methods
- 5. Results
- 6. Discussion
- 7. Conclusion
- 8. References
- Appendix (if necessary)

Title Page

The title page includes the experiment title, student's name, date, instructor's name, and course details. A clear, descriptive title helps readers understand the experiment's focus.

Abstract

The abstract is a brief summary (usually 150–250 words) of the experiment, including the purpose, main procedures, key findings, and conclusions. It allows readers to quickly grasp the essence of the report.

Introduction

The introduction provides background information, states the objectives, and outlines the hypothesis. It sets the stage for the experiment by explaining its relevance and scientific context.

Materials and Methods

This section details the chemicals, equipment, and procedures used. It should be precise and reproducible, enabling others to follow the same steps. Important details, such as concentrations and safety precautions, must be included.

Results

Results present the data collected during the experiment. Tables, graphs, and figures are commonly used to organize and illustrate findings. Raw data and calculations should be clearly displayed and labeled.

Discussion

The discussion interprets the results, compares them to the hypothesis, and explains any discrepancies or sources of error. It connects the findings to broader scientific principles and literature.

Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes the main findings and their significance. It often suggests improvements for future experiments or discusses practical applications.

References

All sources consulted or cited in the report should be listed in a standardized format. This section demonstrates proper research and gives credit to original authors.

Appendix

An appendix may include supplementary material such as raw data, detailed calculations, or additional diagrams. This section is optional but helpful for lengthy reports.

Formatting Guidelines and Best Practices

Proper formatting is essential in chemistry lab reports to ensure clarity, professionalism, and consistency. Attention to detail reflects scientific rigor and enhances readability. Here are key formatting guidelines and best practices:

General Formatting Rules

- Use a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial) in 12-point size.
- Double-space the entire document for easy reading and annotation.
- Include clear section headings and subheadings for organization.
- Number all pages and sections as appropriate.
- Label tables, figures, and equations consecutively.
- Follow the required citation style (APA, MLA, or as specified).

Effective Use of Visuals

Visual aids such as tables, graphs, and charts help convey complex data efficiently. Ensure all visuals are labeled, referenced in the text, and accompanied by descriptive captions. Consistent formatting for figures and tables improves professional presentation.

Data Presentation

Present results clearly using appropriate units, significant figures, and error analysis. Raw data should be organized logically, and calculations must be shown step-by-step. Always highlight key findings and trends in the data.

Tips for Effective Scientific Writing

Writing a sample lab report chemistry requires precision, clarity, and adherence to scientific conventions. The following tips will help improve the quality and impact of your lab report:

Be Clear and Concise

Avoid unnecessary jargon and complex sentences. Use simple, direct language to explain concepts and procedures. Each section should be focused and free of irrelevant information.

Maintain Objectivity

Present facts and observations without bias. Avoid personal opinions or subjective language. Use passive voice where appropriate, but ensure sentences remain clear.

Support Conclusions with Evidence

Base all conclusions and interpretations on data collected during the experiment. Reference tables, figures, and literature to substantiate claims. Avoid unsupported statements.

Proofread and Revise

- Review your report for grammatical errors and typos.
- Check calculations and data for accuracy.
- Ensure logical flow between sections.
- Confirm that all required elements are included and properly formatted.

Common Mistakes to Avoid in Chemistry Lab Reports

Many students and professionals make avoidable errors when writing chemistry lab reports. Recognizing these common mistakes can help improve the quality and credibility of your work.

Incomplete or Vague Procedures

Failing to describe materials and methods in detail can hinder reproducibility. Always specify quantities, concentrations, and steps to ensure clarity.

Incorrect Data Presentation

Disorganized or mislabeled tables and figures can confuse readers. Double-check all visuals for accuracy and proper labeling.

Overlooking Error Analysis

Ignoring sources of error or failing to address discrepancies in results weakens the report. Include a thoughtful error analysis in the discussion section.

Inadequate Referencing

Not citing sources or using improper formats can lead to plagiarism and loss of credibility. Always list all references and follow the required citation style.

Conclusion

A sample lab report chemistry is more than a summary of experiments—it's a demonstration of scientific understanding, analytical skills, and attention to detail. By following the outlined structure, formatting guidelines, and writing tips, students and professionals can produce clear, accurate, and professional chemistry lab reports. Mastery of lab report writing fosters academic success and strengthens scientific communication skills essential for future research and careers in chemistry.

Q: What is the primary purpose of a sample lab report chemistry?

A: The primary purpose of a sample lab report chemistry is to document and communicate the results, methods, and analysis of laboratory experiments in a clear, organized manner, enabling reproducibility and scientific understanding.

Q: What sections are typically included in a chemistry lab report?

A: Common sections in a chemistry lab report include the title page, abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, conclusion, references, and an appendix if necessary.

Q: How can I make my chemistry lab report more professional?

A: Use consistent formatting, clear headings, labeled tables and figures, accurate data presentation, and proper citation of references. Proofreading and adherence to scientific conventions also enhance professionalism.

Q: Why is the discussion section important in a lab report?

A: The discussion section interprets results, addresses discrepancies, and connects findings to broader scientific concepts, demonstrating critical thinking and understanding of the experiment.

Q: What are common mistakes to avoid in chemistry lab reports?

A: Common mistakes include vague procedures, incorrect data presentation, ignoring error analysis, inadequate referencing, and poor formatting.

Q: How should I present data in a chemistry lab report?

A: Present data using organized tables, graphs, and figures, include units and significant figures, and provide clear labels and captions for all visuals.

Q: What is error analysis in a chemistry lab report?

A: Error analysis involves identifying and discussing potential sources of error in the experiment, explaining how they may have affected the results, and suggesting ways to minimize them.

Q: Is an abstract required in every chemistry lab report?

A: While not always mandatory, an abstract is highly recommended as it provides a concise summary of the experiment's purpose, methods, results, and conclusions.

Q: How can I improve my scientific writing for lab reports?

A: Focus on clarity, conciseness, objectivity, logical organization, and supporting conclusions with evidence. Regular proofreading and revision are essential for improvement.

Q: What citation style should I use in a chemistry lab report?

A: The required citation style depends on instructor or publication guidelines, but APA and MLA are commonly used. Always follow the specified format for consistency and credibility.

Sample Lab Report Chemistry

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Sample Lab Report Chemistry: A Comprehensive Guide to Ace Your Experiments

Are you struggling to write a compelling and accurate chemistry lab report? Do you feel overwhelmed by the formatting, data analysis, and overall structure? You're not alone! Many

students find writing lab reports challenging, but with the right guidance, it can become a straightforward process. This comprehensive guide provides a sample chemistry lab report, outlining the essential sections and offering practical tips to help you achieve top marks. We'll cover everything from the abstract to the conclusion, ensuring your report is not just accurate but also effectively communicates your scientific findings. Let's dive in!

Understanding the Structure of a Sample Lab Report Chemistry

A well-structured chemistry lab report follows a specific format to ensure clarity and consistency. Understanding this structure is the first step towards writing an excellent report. This structure isn't arbitrary; it ensures that your findings are presented logically and are easily understood by others. Here's a breakdown of the key sections:

1. Title Page: Making a First Impression

The title page, often overlooked, is crucial. It should clearly and concisely state the experiment's title, your name, your partner's name (if applicable), the date, and the course name. A well-crafted title immediately communicates the report's subject matter.

2. Abstract: A Concise Summary

The abstract is a brief summary of the entire report – a miniature version of your work. It should highlight the experiment's objective, methodology, key results, and conclusions. Keep it concise and impactful; typically, an abstract should be no more than 200 words.

3. Introduction: Setting the Stage

The introduction sets the context for your experiment. It should clearly state the experiment's purpose or objective, providing relevant background information and any relevant theoretical principles. This section should also briefly introduce the hypothesis or expected outcome of the experiment.

4. Materials and Methods: Detailing Your Approach

This section details the materials used in the experiment and the procedures followed. Be precise and thorough, ensuring another scientist could replicate your experiment using your description. Include specific details about equipment, chemicals, and techniques employed.

5. Results: Presenting Your Data

This section presents your experimental data objectively. Use tables and figures to organize your data effectively. Avoid interpreting the data here; simply present the raw results clearly and concisely. Ensure all tables and figures are properly labeled and captioned.

6. Discussion: Analyzing Your Findings

This is where you analyze your results, interpreting their significance and relating them to the experiment's objective and any relevant theoretical background. Compare your results to the expected outcome (your hypothesis). Discuss any sources of error or limitations of the experiment. This is arguably the most crucial section of your report.

7. Conclusion: Summarizing Your Work

The conclusion concisely summarizes the key findings of the experiment and states whether your hypothesis was supported or refuted. It should reiterate the main points of your discussion and provide a final, concise statement about your overall findings.

A Sample Lab Report Chemistry: Titration of an Unknown Acid

Let's look at a hypothetical example focusing on a common chemistry experiment: the titration of an unknown acid. This example won't include all the data, but it demonstrates the structural elements discussed above.

Title: Determination of the Molar Mass of an Unknown Monoprotic Acid via Titration

Abstract: This experiment determined the molar mass of an unknown monoprotic acid by titrating a known volume of the acid with a standardized solution of sodium hydroxide. The endpoint was determined using a pH meter. The molar mass was calculated to be 85.2 g/mol, with a calculated error of 2.1%.

(The rest of the report sections would follow the structure outlined above, including detailed methods, tabulated data, calculations, and a thorough discussion of results.)

Tips for Writing a High-Quality Lab Report

Accuracy: Ensure all data is accurate and precise.

Clarity: Use clear and concise language. Avoid jargon unless it's necessary.

Organization: Follow a logical flow of information.

Formatting: Adhere to any specific formatting guidelines provided by your instructor.

Proofreading: Carefully proofread your report for grammar and spelling errors.

Conclusion

Writing a compelling chemistry lab report requires careful attention to detail and organization. By following the structure outlined in this guide and incorporating the provided tips, you can significantly improve the quality and clarity of your reports. Remember, a well-written lab report is a testament to your understanding of the experimental process and your ability to effectively communicate scientific findings.

FAQs

- 1. What is the most important part of a chemistry lab report? The Discussion section is arguably the most crucial, as it's where you analyze your results and demonstrate your understanding of the experiment's implications.
- 2. How can I improve the clarity of my lab report? Use concise language, avoid jargon where possible, and organize your information logically. Use visuals (tables and graphs) to present data effectively.
- 3. What if my results don't support my hypothesis? This is perfectly acceptable! Discuss why your results might deviate from the expected outcome, considering possible sources of error or limitations in your experimental design.
- 4. How long should a chemistry lab report be? Length varies depending on the complexity of the experiment, but generally, aim for conciseness and clarity over excessive length.
- 5. Where can I find more examples of sample lab reports? Many universities and colleges provide sample lab reports online, or you can check your course materials for examples. Consult with your instructor if you need additional guidance.

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sample lab report chemistry: Molecular Driving Forces Ken Dill, Sarina Bromberg, 2010-10-21 Molecular Driving Forces, Second Edition E-book is an introductory statistical thermodynamics text that describes the principles and forces that drive chemical and biological processes. It demonstrates how the complex behaviors of molecules can result from a few simple physical processes, and how simple models provide surprisingly accurate insights into the workings of the molecular world. Widely adopted in its First Edition, Molecular Driving Forces is regarded by teachers and students as an accessible textbook that illuminates underlying principles and concepts. The Second Edition includes two brand new chapters: (1) Microscopic Dynamics introduces single molecule experiments; and (2) Molecular Machines considers how nanoscale machines and engines work. The Logic of Thermodynamics has been expanded to its own chapter and now covers heat, work, processes, pathways, and cycles. New practical applications, examples, and end-of-chapter questions are integrated throughout the revised and updated text, exploring topics in biology, environmental and energy science, and nanotechnology. Written in a clear and reader-friendly style, the book provides an excellent introduction to the subject for novices while remaining a valuable resource for experts.

sample lab report chemistry: Safe Science National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Board on Human-Systems Integration, Division on Earth and Life Studies, Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, Committee on Establishing and Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Laboratory Research, 2014-10-08 Recent serious and sometimes fatal accidents in chemical research laboratories at United States universities have driven government agencies, professional societies, industries, and universities themselves to examine the culture of safety in research laboratories. These incidents have triggered a broader discussion of how serious incidents can be prevented in the future and how best to train researchers and emergency personnel to respond appropriately when incidents do occur. As the priority placed on safety increases, many institutions have expressed a desire to go beyond simple compliance with regulations to work toward fostering a strong, positive safety culture: affirming a constant commitment to safety throughout their institutions, while integrating safety as an essential element in the daily work of laboratory researchers. Safe Science takes on this challenge. This report examines the culture of safety in research institutions and makes recommendations for university leadership, laboratory researchers, and environmental health and safety professionals to support safety as a core value of their institutions. The report discusses ways to fulfill that commitment through prioritizing funding for safety equipment and training, as well as making safety an ongoing operational priority. A strong, positive safety culture arises not because of a set of rules but because of a constant commitment to safety throughout an organization. Such a culture supports the free exchange of safety information, emphasizes learning and improvement, and assigns greater importance to solving problems than to placing blame. High importance is assigned to safety at all times, not just when it is convenient or does not threaten personal or institutional productivity goals. Safe Science will be a guide to make the changes needed at all levels to protect students, researchers, and staff.

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makes forensic evidence the foundation of a series of eight hands-on, week-long labs. As you weave the labs throughout the year and students solve the case, the narrative provides vivid lessons in why chemistry concepts are relevant and how they connect. All chapters include case information specific to each performance assessment and highlight the related national standards and chemistry content. Chapters provide: Teacher guides to help you set up Student performance assessments A suspect file to introduce the characters and new information about their relationships to the case Samples of student work that has been previously assessed (and that serves as an answer key for you) Grading rubrics Using Forensics in Chemistry as your guide, you will gain the confidence to use inquiry-based strategies and performance-based assessments with a complex chemistry curriculum. Your students may gain an interest in chemistry that rivals their fascination with Bones and CSI.

sample lab report chemistry: Chemistry (Teacher Guide) Dr. Dennis Englin, 2018-02-26 This book was created to help teachers as they instruct students through the Master's Class Chemistry course by Master Books. The teacher is one who guides students through the subject matter, helps each student stay on schedule and be organized, and is their source of accountability along the way. With that in mind, this guide provides additional help through the laboratory exercises, as well as lessons, guizzes, and examinations that are provided along with the answers. The lessons in this study emphasize working through procedures and problem solving by learning patterns. The vocabulary is kept at the essential level. Practice exercises are given with their answers so that the patterns can be used in problem solving. These lessons and laboratory exercises are the result of over 30 years of teaching home school high school students and then working with them as they proceed through college. Guided labs are provided to enhance instruction of weekly lessons. There are many principles and truths given to us in Scripture by the God that created the universe and all of the laws by which it functions. It is important to see the hand of God and His principles and wisdom as it plays out in chemistry. This course integrates what God has told us in the context of this study. Features: Each suggested weekly schedule has five easy-to-manage lessons that combine reading and worksheets. Worksheets, guizzes, and tests are perforated and three-hole punched — materials are easy to tear out, hand out, grade, and store. Adjust the schedule and materials needed to best work within your educational program. Space is given for assignments dates. There is flexibility in scheduling. Adapt the days to your school schedule. Workflow: Students will read the pages in their book and then complete each section of the teacher guide. They should be encouraged to complete as many of the activities and projects as possible as well. Tests are given at regular intervals with space to record each grade. About the Author: DR. DENNIS ENGLIN earned his bachelor's from Westmont College, his master of science from California State University, and his EdD from the University of Southern California. He enjoys teaching animal biology, vertebrate biology, wildlife biology, organismic biology, and astronomy at The Master's University. His professional memberships include the Creation Research Society, the American Fisheries Association, Southern California Academy of Sciences, Yellowstone Association, and Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies.

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mandated. Each lab concludes with either an essay or a detailed analysis of what happened and why it happened. This format is based on the expectations of joining a university program or becoming an industrial science professional. The ideal student lab report would be written in a lab research notebook, and then the essay or final analysis is done on a word processor to allow for repeat editing and corrections. The research notebook has all graph pages, a title section, and a place for the students and their assistants to sign and witness that exercise. The basic mechanics of the lab report-title, purpose, procedure, diagrams, data table, math and calculations, observations, and graphs-are handwritten into the book. The conclusion is done on a word processor (MS Word), which allows the instructor to guide the student in writing and editing a complete essay using the MLA format. When the final copy is completed, the essay is printed and inserted into the lab notebook for grading. At the end of the term, the student has all their labs in one place for future reference. These lab notebooks can be obtained for as little as \$ 3.00 per book. This is money well-spent. In our district, the Board of Education buys the books for each student. The BOE sees these books as expendable but necessary materials for all science and engineering instruction.

sample lab report chemistry: America's Lab Report National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Center for Education, Board on Science Education, Committee on High School Laboratories: Role and Vision, 2006-01-20 Laboratory experiences as a part of most U.S. high school science curricula have been taken for granted for decades, but they have rarely been carefully examined. What do they contribute to science learning? What can they contribute to science learning? What is the current status of labs in our nationïÂċ½s high schools as a context for learning science? This book looks at a range of guestions about how laboratory experiences fit into U.S. high schools: What is effective laboratory teaching? What does research tell us about learning in high school science labs? How should student learning in laboratory experiences be assessed? Do all student have access to laboratory experiences? What changes need to be made to improve laboratory experiences for high school students? How can school organization contribute to effective laboratory teaching? With increased attention to the U.S. education system and student outcomes, no part of the high school curriculum should escape scrutiny. This timely book investigates factors that influence a high school laboratory experience, looking closely at what currently takes place and what the goals of those experiences are and should be. Science educators, school administrators, policy makers, and parents will all benefit from a better understanding of the need for laboratory experiences to be an integral part of the science curriculum-and how that can be accomplished.

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sample lab report chemistry: Determination of Organic Structures by Physical Methods E. A. Braude, F. C. Nachod, 2013-10-22 Determination of Organic Structures by Physical Methods, Volume 1 focuses on the processes, methodologies, principles, and approaches involved in the determination of organic structures by physical methods, including infrared light absorption, thermodynamic properties, Raman spectra, and kinetics. The selection first elaborates on the phase properties of small molecules, equilibrium and dynamic properties of large molecules, and optical rotation. Discussions focus on simple acyclic compounds, carbohydrates, steroids, diffusion, viscosity, osmotic pressure, sedimentation velocity, melting and boiling points, and molar volume. The book then examines ultraviolet and visible light absorption, infrared light absorption, Raman spectra, and the theory of magnetic susceptibility. Concerns cover applications to the study of organic compounds, applications to the determination of structure, determination of thermodynamic properties, and experimental methods and evaluation of data. The text ponders on wave-mechanical theory, reaction kinetics, and dissociation constants, including dissociation of molecular addition compounds, principles of reaction kinetics, and valence-bond treatment of aromatic systems. The selection is a valuable source of data for researchers interested in the determination of organic structures by physical methods.

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sample lab report chemistry: Prudent Practices in the Laboratory National Research Council, Division on Earth and Life Studies, Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, Committee on Prudent Practices in the Laboratory: An Update, 2011-03-25 Prudent Practices in the Laboratory-the book that has served for decades as the standard for chemical laboratory safety practice-now features updates and new topics. This revised edition has an expanded chapter on chemical management and delves into new areas, such as nanotechnology, laboratory security, and emergency planning. Developed by experts from academia and industry, with specialties in such areas as chemical sciences, pollution prevention, and laboratory safety, Prudent Practices in the Laboratory provides guidance on planning procedures for the handling, storage, and disposal of chemicals. The book offers prudent practices designed to promote safety and includes practical information on assessing hazards, managing chemicals, disposing of wastes, and more. Prudent Practices in the Laboratory will continue to serve as the leading source of chemical safety guidelines for people working with laboratory chemicals: research chemists, technicians, safety officers, educators, and students.

sample lab report chemistry: The Craft of Research, Third Edition Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, 2009-05-15 With more than 400,000 copies now in print, The Craft of Research is the unrivaled resource for researchers at every level, from first-year undergraduates to research reporters at corporations and government offices. Seasoned researchers and educators Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams present an updated third edition of their classic handbook, whose first and second editions were written in collaboration with the late Wayne C. Booth. The Craft of Research explains how to build an argument that motivates readers to accept a claim; how to anticipate the reservations of readers and to respond to them appropriately; and how to create introductions and conclusions that answer that most demanding question, "So what?" The third edition includes an expanded discussion of the essential early stages of a research task: planning and drafting a paper. The authors have revised and fully updated their section on electronic research, emphasizing the need to distinguish between trustworthy sources (such as those found in libraries) and less reliable sources found with a quick Web search. A chapter on warrants has also been thoroughly reviewed to make this difficult subject easier for researchers Throughout, the authors have preserved the amiable tone, the reliable voice, and the sense of directness that have made this book indispensable for anyone undertaking a research project.

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consuming to grade and stressful to complete in fifty minutes or less? Teacher friendly labs and activities meet the following criteria: Quick set up with flexibility of materials and equipment Minutes in chemical preparation time Cheap materials that are readily available Directions written with flexibility of materials Minimal safety concerns

sample lab report chemistry: The Love Hypothesis Ali Hazelwood, 2021-09-14 The Instant New York Times Bestseller and TikTok Sensation! As seen on THE VIEW! A BuzzFeed Best Summer Read of 2021 When a fake relationship between scientists meets the irresistible force of attraction, it throws one woman's carefully calculated theories on love into chaos. As a third-year Ph.D. candidate, Olive Smith doesn't believe in lasting romantic relationships--but her best friend does, and that's what got her into this situation. Convincing Anh that Olive is dating and well on her way to a happily ever after was always going to take more than hand-wavy Jedi mind tricks: Scientists require proof. So, like any self-respecting biologist, Olive panics and kisses the first man she sees. That man is none other than Adam Carlsen, a young hotshot professor--and well-known ass. Which is why Olive is positively floored when Stanford's reigning lab tyrant agrees to keep her charade a secret and be her fake boyfriend. But when a big science conference goes haywire, putting Olive's career on the Bunsen burner, Adam surprises her again with his unyielding support and even more unyielding...six-pack abs. Suddenly their little experiment feels dangerously close to combustion. And Olive discovers that the only thing more complicated than a hypothesis on love is putting her own heart under the microscope.

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