

NOTEBOOK ILLUSTRATIONS

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20 Oct '93, most recent rvns 19 Mar '96, 17 Sept '97, 3 Jan '98, 22 Mar 01, 9 Aug 02, 24 June 03, 2 Jan 04, 19Sept05

http://biology.clc.uc.edu/fankhauser/Labs/Keeping_a_Notebook/Illustrations.htm

Notebook illustrations are an important class of scientific notes intended to record and communicate observations and visual data, including shape, unique traits, relative size, relationships to other features, etc. They require you to look closely at the specimen. To draw a specimen reinforces in your mind its structure in two dimensions. It is a means of communicating your observations to others, and allows review of these data in the future. The following guidelines should make your illustrations useful for these purposes.

1. Illustrate a **single illustration per page** unless you are directed to draw two illustrations/page, or you are expanding on primary illustration of the page. Multiple pieces of simple equipment, and occasional bacterial illustrations may be drawn on the same page. In these cases, each illustration should be headed by its own specific title.
2. Use the **right hand page for illustrations**, left for printed protocols. It prevents bleed-through of the ink which obscures drawings. (If you are left handed, you may reverse this suggested pattern.)
3. The specific **subject of the illustration** should be the title of the page.
4. Below the title, enter the **cross reference** to the location in your notebook of the protocol which you followed, and any text or resource which might give additional information on the subject and/or its significance.
5. If the specimen is microscopic, first scan the entire specimen to find the best **characteristic view** with all features noted in the protocol or lecture. Adjust lighting and focus for optimum resolution. Start the top of the illustration below the ninth line on the page to allow space for title and cross reference.
6. Make a **line drawing of the specimen with black permanent ink**. Draw it to fill most of the allotted space. You may add characteristic colors later if you desire. Do *not* use colored pencils to make your *initial* drawing, they are too faint and indistinct.
7. **Label all features directly** as specified in protocol or mentioned in lab (not in numbered lists). Take care to spell them correctly. Frequently refer to the protocol while you make your drawing to ensure incorporation of all important features.
8. Briefly **describe the function** or significance of each feature. (This should be done at home.) **For new pieces of apparatus**, check the introductory protocol to be sure you have included and labeled all features mentioned and/or which you may use.
9. In the legend below the illustration, give the **source of the specimen** if known, the **preparatory treatment** (staining, etc) to which it was subjected and the stain's special significance for the features observed, if any.
10. Give the **power of magnification** at the lower right of your illustration.
11. On the corresponding protocol, **cross reference to the illustration**. On protocols with multiple views, it is convenient and acceptable to enter the page of the illustration to the side of the slide commentary on the protocol. If you used any other source for your drawing for your illustration, *you must indicate the source*.