A sample of “lab report” instructions follows. This one was used in a non-majors class.

**Bean beetle study**  
**Written summary = XXX points**

**Question:**  
What influences female responses to male courtship attempts (males approaching females)?

1. Restate the question with your specific characteristic included. State your hypothesis: should include female or male or environmental characteristic that you are testing.
2. Give one prediction from your hypothesis: should include the specific female response that you are going to measure (y variable) AND the female or male or environmental characteristic described in your hypothesis (x variable). The prediction should not be the same as the hypothesis. You should get approval from the instructor before proceeding.
3. Describe methodology to test your hypothesis.
   - Include brief description of bean beetles (cite the student handout and other primary sources of literature).
   - Describe the male or female or environmental characteristic that you chose to investigate. Describe your subjects based on this characteristic. For example, if you chose body size, how many males of each body size did you use? What was the range of body size used?
   - Also describe in detail how you measured the specific response variable: how frequently?, for how long?, how many females tested?, etc.
4. State your results (in complete sentences) and include at least one graph. You should refer to the graph in the text of your results section.
   - The graph(s) should be labeled Figure 1, 2, etc. One or two sentences that explain what the graph represents should be placed directly below the graph.
   - Graph must include X axis label and Y axis label.
   - Graphs should be made using Excel or some other computer program.
5. State your conclusions (explain your results, referring to your graph again). Briefly relate the article that you found to your conclusions. If the article discusses a similar feature of an animal as what you measured, discuss the article’s conclusions related to your own. If the article discusses a different feature of an animal than what you measured, discuss the article’s conclusions in addition to your own. Try to relate the article to your experiment.
6. Give three critiques of your study.
7. Design a study that follows from your study: must include new hypothesis, prediction and description of methods. Explain how this study would be the next logical step (based on your results) in your investigation of female bean beetle responses to approaching males.
8. Section labeled **Literature Cited**.

K. Buckholz and S. Larimer. www.beanbeetles.org