LAB SKILL

BIOLOGICAL DRAWINGS
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1. Biological drawings should be drawn on plain white A4 paper, never on lined or coloured paper.

2. Do not draw the circle of field of view.

3. Everything on the page should be in pencil, even label-lines, labels, and the title and its underlining.
   - It is recommended that an HB or H is used.
   - H is highly recommended.
   - Never use pens, ballpoint pens, crayons, or felt-tipped pens.
   - Clutch pencils with H or HB leads are very good.
   - Make sure your pencils are sharp.

4. All drawings should be as large as possible within the space available.
   - Use a whole page.
   - Leave space at the sides for labels or annotated comments, and leave space above the drawing for a title.

5. Use the following format.
   - Your name and date must be in the top right hand corner of your drawing
   - The full title in pencil, underlined, must be centered at the top middle of the page
   - The source of your material must be written at the bottom left of the page
   - The greatest magnification, when using a microscope, must appear at the bottom right of the page

6. A drawing must be correctly and adequately labelled.
   - Neat legible hand-writing. Print all labels horizontally to the right (when possible) of the drawing in a uniform height
   - Avoid mixing printing; capital letters are different from small letters, not only in size but also in design. Letters commonly misused are: AGHILPRT, aghilprt
   - MaKe all tHe letteRs The saMe siZe. DoN’t pRinT liKe this
   - A single line (drawn with a ruler) must connect the structure with the label
   - Label-lines must not cross each other.
   - Do not write the plural for single objects: petal not petals, mitochondrion not mitochondria.
   - Do not use arrows.
   - Keep the intensity of lines and labels the same that is, avoid heavy lines for the drawing with light lettering, and vice versa.
   - Neatness and clarity must be kept in mind when labeling a drawing.

7. When drawing lines:
   - Do not lift the pencil from the paper until the line is completed.
   - Lines completed with ‘one stroke’ are required, not a succession of half hearted ‘scratchiness’.
   - If you erase, erase completely.
8. Do not shade or colour unless instructed.

9. A drawing is a pictorial representation of what YOU see, and therefore it must resemble the specimen in front of you.
   ➢ It is drawn from the specimen and NOT from a textbook.
   ➢ Copies of textbook drawings are not acceptable.
   In contrast, a diagram is schematic and need not resemble a real specimen.
   ➢ You may wish, at times, to draw a diagram as well as a drawing of a particular specimen.

10. Drawings of specimens must be made in class.
    ➢ It is not acceptable to make a rough sketch in class, and then to transcribe and complete the proper drawing later.

11. Make as many drawing and diagrams as you like.
    ➢ Considerable emphasis is given to correct observation, interpretation, and illustration of structures and specimens.
    ➢ Do not worry if you are not an artist; do the best you can.
    ➢ A not-very-good drawing, properly labeled and showing insight into the structure, is much more useful for your education than an artistic drawing with minimal labeling and no insight.
    ➢ Annotations to describe features that are hard to show on a drawing, such as texture, improve the quality and usefulness of a drawing.

**Following are some examples of acceptable drawings**