

**The Use of Writing Prompts Within Vo Ag Laboratory  
Practicals May 2006 - Revised December 2006**

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Several questions have been asked about an outline for a Vo Ag "laboratory practical." It is very similar to science laboratory but is not necessarily "experimental" or "research" based. Most often Vo Ag labs practicals are equipment or task based and linked to industrial performance measures or assessments. Some aspects are familiar from the scientific "lab report" except the connection to occupational awareness such as job titles and industrial applications. It is possible to take the Laboratory Practical outline a step further and incorporate critical thinking/problem solving exercises into the conclusion. Even if the lab doesn't go as expected that itself can be an opportunity to incorporate critical thinking and writing exercises.

To assist in the organization of the lab practical I offer this outline.

- 1) Title of Lab Practical - please include your name, date and course title
- 2) Introduction/Overview include rationale for application/job titles - "This is important because."
- 3) Objective - the goal of the lab - why, how connected to job titles - you need to know this, etc. (list the job titles).
- 4) Science Standards - NOCTI Performance Measures - reference number or standard. Can be a mathematics standard for Technology.
- 5) Materials, supplies, required equipment
- 6) Safety/Operations, Protocols, Industry Certificate (optional)
- 7) Activity/Task - Performance - what is the student actually doing. (skill based activity).
- 8) Written Conclusion - include a situational writing prompt, problem solving exercise, reasoning and critical thinking exercises as per suggestions last fall. John Roy's case study - of the lobster problem a few years ago was an excellent example of this type of critical thinking exercise.

Completed Laboratory Practical may be submitted in support of the teacher evaluation process as evidence of student achievement and documentation of critical thinking/problem solving exercises.

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New Haven School District Evaluation Process