

Short Report Information for CHM 125IN

Two short reports are required as part of this course:

The reports will be on a **two different, unrelated, consumer products** (including over the counter drugs, but not prescription drugs) of your choice. The report may be a follow-up to class discussions, but must contain additional information beyond the class discussion and the textbook or supplemental readings. Ideas for topics can be found in specialized magazines such as *Discovery*, *Scientific American*, *Invention & Technology*, *Smithsonian*, or *Popular Science* (to name a few), news magazines such as *Time* or *Newsweek*, newspapers such as *The New York Times* science section or *The Arizona Daily Star* (or other local or national newspaper), and the Internet. (Note: most magazines and newspapers have web sites that include news stories from recent issues, as well as news programs on television that archive their consumer product reports.)

The report should tell what the product, or products (if a comparison) are, the active ingredients (if applicable), how it was developed, how it works, and as much of the science behind it that you can find. You may include comparisons between similar products along with your own testing of the product (testing is not required). Information can be obtained from a number of sources including books, magazines (such as *Consumer Reports*, *Consumer Digest*, *Time*, etc...), U.S. patents (Internet address: *uspto.gov*), and the Internet. You should contact the manufacturer of each product for information using their consumer telephone number, usually listed on the product label. (Note: Some consumer departments are quite good at supplying information, others will be of little or no help. Do not ask them too much information as they are afraid you may be a competitor trying to get proprietary information. It may take 2-3 weeks, or more, to get information through the mail, and, in some cases, the information never arrives.) If you are using the Internet, try looking for a web site from the manufacturer or under the product names on the Internet (try addresses such as *Tide.com*, *Tylenol.com*, etc.). Remember, this is a chemistry course and we do discuss a large number of consumer products as well as prepare and/or test some in the laboratory, so your report must go beyond the class information.

Topics for the short reports must be approved by your instructor. (This reduces duplication of topics and will help you manage your information.)

The text of short report should be **five pages in length**, typed, and double spaced. (Do not quadruple space between paragraphs.) The report may be longer than 5 pages, if required, to complete your information. (One sentence on page 5 does not constitute 5 pages of text.)

Margins should be no greater than **one inch** (2.5 cm), top, bottom and sides.

Type size should be no greater than **12 point**, except for headings. Points will be deducted for large type size.

Diagrams, chemical formulas, pictures, charts, and graphs may be important information to explain or illustrate your topic. These items are considered additional material and **do not count toward the five pages of text required** for the paper length. The diagrams, formulas, pictures, charts or graphs may be placed in the body of the text or added on separate pages at the end of the text. Don't forget to reference this material.

If the product or products contain a list of ingredients, put this information into a table and single space the information.

Use three or more unique references, some of which should be fairly recent (within the past two years). Use multiple sources, not just different sections of a single web site or a single book or magazine. Look for sources that may tell negative or unfavorable information about your topic to **obtain a balanced overview of your topic**. Do not believe everything you read, you must apply some critical thinking to the information you find. Put the information in your own words rather than copying directly from the reference or the internet. Use footnotes or appropriate citations, where applicable, to acknowledge borrowed material, informing the reader of the source of statements or quotations, or for presenting explanatory or supplementary material not appropriate to the text. Not citing direct quotes or downloaded material is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero for the report.

All sources used in the researching and writing of the report should be listed in a **bibliography**. Generally, the bibliography will be on page 6 of the report. The bibliography (and also footnotes, if you use them in your writing style) presents the following information:

For a book:

Author's name (last name first), the title of the book (underlined or in italics) including any series or volume number, the edition, if other than the first, the publisher, the place of publication (or home office of the publisher), the date of publication on the copyright page, and relevant page numbers. An example of a book reference is:

Saferstein, Richard, *Criminalistics, An Introduction to Forensic Science*, 7th Ed., Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2001, pages 228-257.

For an article:

The name of the writer, the title of the article in quotation marks, the title of the periodical (underlined or in italics), the volume number (underlined or in bold print), the date of the issue of the periodical, and the page numbers. An example of a magazine reference is:

Roger, J., P. Angel, and Neville J. Woolf, "Searching for Life on Other Planets", *Scientific American*, **274**, No. 4, April 1996, P. 60.

For Internet material:

The name of the author or publisher of the home page, the title of the article in quotation marks, the title of the magazine or journal or database (underlined or in italics), Internet address of the article, and the date the article or the home page was last updated. (The internet address, by itself, is not considered a valid reference.) An example of an Internet reference is:

Proctor & Gamble, "The Tide Fabric Care Network", http://www.pg.com/frameet_fs.jhtml?frameURL=www.tide.com, 2003

Please note that www.google.com is not an acceptable reference.

Internet references will be checked by your instructor. Failure to find and connect to an internet reference will invalidate that reference.

For unpublished material:

The name of the writer or individual (last name first), the title in quotation marks (if it is an article), and the date. If the information is relayed in an interview or by letter, tell the individuals professional position and use the term *personal communication* in place of the title. An example of unpublished information is:

Smith, John P., Technical Service Engineer, Nuclear Missile Company, *personal communication*.

Diagrams, charts, tables, and pictures may be included in addition to the text of the paper. They are best added as separate pages at the end of the report rather than trying to space them into the body of the text. They do not apply to the five pages of text required for the report. When referring to a table, write *see Table 1* (Roman or Arabic number may be used) and when referring to a picture or diagram write *see Figure 1*. Give credit to the source if the table or figure is not original.

If a proper bibliography is not included, the grade on the paper will be penalized by a minimum of 10 points. You may also be penalized points for improper references.

English Composition:

This is a chemistry course and the paper is on a scientific topic. You are, however, expected to write with proper organization, composition, spelling, and grammar befitting a college level report. It is suggested that you may want to have your paper reviewed by your English teacher before completing your final product.

Binding:

A single staple in the upper left hand corner of the report is sufficient for binding the pages together. Fancy report covers, spiral bindings, and other types of bindings are not necessary and do not improve your grade.

Please submit two copies of your report. (One for your instructor's records) A minimum of 10 points will be deducted if a second copy is not supplied.

Report information and references may be checked by your instructor through a variety of Internet sources and resources.

Grades are based on content and accuracy of information, relevance to chemistry, proper references and citations, and composition. Reports are evaluated "as is" and are not returned for correction or updating of information.

If the report is less than five pages long, you will be penalized 15 points for each page under 5.

If your margins or spacing are too large or your type size is too large, you will lose 10 points per violation.

Late reports will be penalized **10 points the first 24 hours**, and an additional 10 points until the next class period. An additional 15 points will be deducted until the third class period. After that, a grade of zero will be recorded for the report.