Writing a journal

or

how to get your vit.ass. to approve your journal

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How to structure your work notes (which is what a journal is):

1. Title, date, name(s) of persons performing the experiment
2. Purpose of the experiment
   (should comment on this at the end of the entry)
3. List of apparatus actually used, NOT necessarily same as list in booklet
   (include producers, id-#, uncertainty limits, et al., do not include pen, pencil, computer, et al.)
4. Drawing of instrumental setup
5. Procedure
   (what you actually DO, not what the booklet tells you to do)
6. Results
   (mass collection of the measurements in tables and figures, small calculations)
7. Analysis/discussion
   (uncertainty calculations)
8. Discussion/Conclusion
   (sources of error, improvements)

General notes:

- **Always include units**
- Use pen for text and pencil for figures
- Cross over when you write ~~error~~ erroneously
- A co-ordinate system needs two arrows and axis labels to be a co-ordinate system
- Singular measurements can be included in #5, e.g., "First, we used item 1, m_1=0,532g, which ..."
- Use formal tables (NO vertical lines)
- Keep it nice and tidy so that you can easily find what you are looking for at a later date (but don't waste paper)

Remember to write things down as they happen, do not assume that you will remember everything exactly a few hours later or when you get home.