**Components of Good Procedure Writing**

**Derived from Avid Student handout 3.3.4**

For scientists, it is critical for other researchers to replicate experimental studies to verify the results. Being able to replicate the results of an investigation allows a researcher to strengthen the conclusions made in the first study. Precision is vital: This includes explaining how to set up the groups, how to control the constants, and how the measure the variables.

The following is a list of essentials for writing procedures. Be very specific.

*When in doubt about how much to include about your methods, include more!*

1. Use a numbered list of steps.

2. Organize the steps into small discrete directions in the order you would do them in lab.

3. Avoid using pronouns.

4. Use commands.

5. Explain how you selected your sample of organisms or reagents.

6. Tell the reader to measure and record data when it is appropriate. Also explain what data to record and how to measure this data.

7. Refer only to measurements using the metric system (SI).

8. Eliminate extraneous information.

9. Sketch and label the experimental set-up. Refer to sketch in directions.

10. Number multiple sketches, starting with 1. Refer to the sketch numbers in the procedure.

11. Include every step no matter how small it seems. It may be the critical step.

12. Explain how to keep all constants the same.

13. All equipment listed in the materials section is referred to in the methods section.

14. Tell experimenter when to repeat steps.

Topic:

Procedure:

Score 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 Score 2:\_\_\_\_\_\_/5