

High and Low Comparison Task: Paper Towel Lab Conclusions

A good conclusion to a science lab accomplishes four different things.

1. Summarizes your findings
2. Reflects on any surprising results
3. Shares lessons that people can learn from your findings
4. Designs a follow-up experiment answering a new and interesting question related to your topic

Knowing that, explain why conclusion 1 is better than conclusion 2.

Conclusion 1	Conclusion 2
<p>The paper towel that held the least amount of water was the one that was folded into eighths. It held 34.3 mL of water. The paper towel that held the most water was the regular paper towel that had nothing done to it. It held 41 mL of water.</p> <p>I thought this was very interesting because I thought, at first, that the original paper towel would hold the least amount of water because it wasn't modified. I always thought that the more you modify something, the better it gets—but not in this case.</p> <p>One lesson I learned from this lab is that if you are cleaning up at home, don't modify your paper towel, because the regular paper towel holds the most water. If you don't use a regular paper towel, you are wasting paper, and wasting paper hurts the environment.</p> <p>If I did another lab, I would want to find out which brand of paper towel holds the most water because I have already found out what way the best way is to soak up water. If I find out which is the best brand, I can tell my mom to only buy that brand and to use that brand without modifying it. That way, we'll use less paper and help the environment.</p>	<p>One of the things that we learned in our lab trials was that a paper towel that is folded doesn't absorb as much water as one that is used in one flat sheet. This was surprising to me because I thought that anytime you use more layers of paper towel, you could absorb more water.</p> <p>I know that when I am using paper towels at home, I often have to lay more than one sheet down on top of one another in order to clean up a spill. I was pretty sure that folding a paper towel would work just like laying more than one sheet down on top of one another, but that's just not true.</p> <p>We tried folding our paper towels a bunch of different ways. We folded the paper towel horizontally and vertically. We also folded the paper towel over multiple times. The greatest number of folds in any one paper towel was eight.</p> <p>That surprised me simply because I didn't think that we could get eight folds in a paper towel. Folding the paper towel and keeping it folded while it was in the water got harder every single time.</p>

Feedback Grid

Use the following feedback grid to rate the two sample conclusions and your own conclusion. If a trait appears in the conclusion you are studying, place an X in the appropriate box. If a trait doesn't appear, leave the box blank. If you aren't sure whether the trait appears, place a ? in the box. Then, check your ratings with a partner. Do your ratings for each category agree? If not, why not? More important, if not, come to a consensus around your ratings.

Conclusion You Are Studying	Summarizes Your Findings	Reflects on Surprising Results	Shares Lessons Learned From Findings	Designs Follow-Up Experiment
Conclusion 1				
Conclusion 2				
My Conclusion				

Source: Adapted from Wiliam, D. (2011). Embedded formative assessment. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.