## **Protocol Writing**

For Research 2, AY 2021-22

**In general:** This is project-dependent. The length and amount of information will depend on the type of project (e.g. experimental, technical, observational, etc). As a rule of thumb, a protocol has to be prepared before you can use the laboratory for your project implementation. It is a detailed version of your methodology, where ideally a third-party validation can be done and can do your procedures if they have this document.

## **Required Contents**

- 1. List of materials (consumable and non-consumable) and equipment. Indicate the estimated amount/quantity needed and other pertinent details (e.g., size/capacity for glassware)
- 2. [FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING CHEMICALS ONLY] List of reagents and expected products, including their corresponding structure, molecular weight, physical and chemical properties (i.e. appearance, melting point, boiling point, density, solubility), hazards and safety precautions/handling, and accidental contact/release measures. Consult the safety data sheet (SDS) available online. See Table 1 below for an example.
- 3. [FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING MACHINIST TOOLS/EQUIPMENT] List of tools and equipment, including their corresponding hazards, and required safety precautions/handling and their disposal/cleanup procedures (if applicable). See Table 2 below for an example.
- 4. [FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING USE OF BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS] List equipment, including their corresponding hazards, and required safety precautions/handling, and their disposal/cleanup procedures. See Table 3 below for an example.
- 5. **Step by step procedures** specifying the amount and concentration (for mixtures) of substances to be used. This could be in the form of a flowchart, numbered list, etc. Include figures/schematic diagrams if necessary. Do not forget to cite the basis for the procedures. Imagine a pre-lab for a lab experiment.
  - Note: Use of some equipment/special procedures may require a separate protocol (e.g., Soxhlet extraction, Kirby-Bauer method, etc.).
- [FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING SIMULATION/COMPUTER SOFTWARE] Include needed functions and operations to execute (i.e. what tools in Fusion 360 / ANSYS), or any specific coding approaches that you plan to do. In short, have your adviser approve your design and/or fabrication plan.
- [FOR PROTOCOLS INVOLVING CHEMICALS ONLY] Waste disposal/decontamination
  procedures. For chemicals requiring special disposal/decontamination measures, include the
  EMB Waste Classification Number.

Table 1. List of Reagents and Expected Products

Substance	Physical/Chemical Properties	Hazards, Safety Precautions and Handling	Measures in case of Accidental Contact or Release (spillage)
List the common and IUPAC names with its corresponding chemical structure  Include reagents and expected products	Indicate notable physical and chemical properties (e.g., boiling and melting points, solubility, appearance, etc.)	Indicate the GHS class, hazards (e.g., corrosive, reacts with water, toxic, etc.) and the required safety precautions/handling required (e.g., wear nitrile gloves, work under fume hood, etc.)	Indicate the first aid measures upon accidental contact (e.g., rinse with water, etc.) or release (e.g., turn off all open flames, etc.)
Ethanol C2H6O H <sub>3</sub> C OH	Clear, colorless liquid Boiling point: 78.29 °C at 1.013 hPa Flash point: 13 °C Autoignition temperature: 455 °C at 1.013 hPa	GHS Class: Flammable liquids (Category 2), H225 Eye irritation (Category 2), H319  Hazards: Highly flammable liquid and vapor. Causes serious eye irritation.  Precautions: Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking. Keep the container tightly closed. Ground and bond container and receiving equipment. Use explosion-proof electrical/ ventilating/ lighting/ equipment. Use non-sparking tools.	First Aid Measures: After inhalation: fresh air. In case of skin contact: Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/ shower. In case of eye contact: rinse out with plenty of water. Call an ophthalmologist. Remove contact lenses. If swallowed: immediately make the victim drink water (two glasses at most). Consult a physician.  Suitable extinguishing media: Water Foam Carbon dioxide (CO2) Dry powder  Accidental release measures: Advice for non-emergency personnel: Do not breathe vapors, aerosols. Avoid substance contact. Ensure adequate ventilation. Keep away from heat and sources of ignition. Evacuate the danger area, observe

	emergency procedures, consult an expert. Do not let the product enter drains. Risk of explosion
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## Table 2. List of Tools/Equipment for Fabrication

- In general, include all safety precautions as specified in your particular tool's handling. The table below lists some common hazards and suggested safety procedures.

Protocol / Instrument Usage	Possible Hazards	Safety procedures, handling, and disposal
Soldering: use of soldering iron and lead when fabricating circuits in a PCB instead of a breadboard	High temperature (up to 400 degrees C)	Proper handling of instruments (hold only on handle and never touch the metal rod). Place the soldering rod on a stand when not in use.
		Have a moist sponge nearby to wipe the soldering tip after every application/melting
		If available, use a "third arm" attachment to assist in clamping electronic components and the board to solder.
		Avoid inhaling solder fumes. Wear face masks if available. Safety goggles provide additional protection.
		In case of solder burn, treat with cool running water for 5-15 minutes, and do not use ice.
		Apply burn ointment afterwards, and cover with bandage.
PCB Etching	Ferric chloride etching solution is toxic; may cause eye irritation	Wear face masks and/or safety goggles in case of splash

	Etchant stains (not really hazardous but are practically impossible to remove from clothes)	While Ferric Chloride is less harmful compared to other chemical etchants, prolonged contact with skin is undesirable  Spills may be cleaned with disposable rags, but baking soda or cat litter are also useful for soaking up spills
Use of power tools / woodwork / metalwork	Sharp edges; high-rotation activities may result in bodily injury	For corded tools, make sure that the line is safely placed and will not interfere with normal work  Keep hands and other body parts free from the tool's edge (e.g. drill bit, saw, sharp edge)  For woodwork/metalwork - safety goggles should be worn as protection against debris  Always check integrity of the tools being used as this may not only cause damage but result in inefficient fabrication
3D printing (if with personal printer)	High bed (80 - 100 C) and nozzle (up to 250 C) temperatures	Application of adhesion (e.g. masking tape) on the bed may be used  Steer clear of the printing area once printing has started  Ensure that printing is steady and previous layers are still adhered to the bed as sliced; monitor the infeed of the 3d printing filament to ensure that printing is continuous  Do not directly touch the nozzle or the bed during operation. Wait for the operation to finish cooling before removing the printed

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Table 3. List of Possible Hazards and Safety Procedures and Disposal of Biological Specimens

Protocol / Instrument Usage	Possible Hazards	Safety procedures, handling, and disposal
Handling of microbial cultures (e.g. specify your bacteria)	Universal precautions should be applied – consider all microbiological specimens to be potentially pathogenic	Wear lab gown/coat, face masks, gloves  Use biosafety cabinet and follow biosafety level practices; open microbial culture inside a biosafety cabinet only  Practice proper aseptic techniques at all times  All materials/lab tools and non-disposable lab gowns/coats must be properly disinfected and cleaned  Plastic petri dishes, plastic pipettes, microscope slides, and swabs are considered disposable; these must be sterilized and discarded.  All of these disposable contaminated materials should be placed in the designated waste container containing a biohazard autoclave bag.  Face masks and gloves must be disposed of in the biohazard garbage  Decontaminate (autoclave) disposable lab gowns/coats and microbiological samples prior to disposal
Use of biological samples: a. Blood and other bodily fluids	Potentially infectious	Wear lab gown/coat, face masks, gloves, eye protection  All materials/lab tools and non-disposable lab gowns/coats must be properly disinfected and cleaned

		Sharps (blades and needles) must be disposed of in a biohazard container  All disposable PPE (face masks and gloves) must be disposed of in the biohazard or clinical waste garbage
b. Animal specimens (the use of animal specimens require that the Animal Use Protocol has been approved by the IACUC; collection of animals from the wild must adhere to Philippine laws)	Potentially disease/parasite carriers	Wear lab gown/coat, face masks, gloves, eye protection  All materials/lab tools and non-disposable lab gowns/coats must be properly disinfected and cleaned  Non-hazardous waste must be placed into black trash bags that are a minimum of 3 mm thick (under IACUC approved guidelines)  Biohazardous waste must be placed in biohazard bags and autoclaved, afterwhich the bag should be placed into regular trash  Animal tissues/carcasses treated with chemicals should be stored in plastic bags in a designated freezer
c. Plant specimens (collection of plants from the wild must adhere to Philippine laws)	May potentially contain allergens or toxic substances	Wear lab gown/coat, face masks, gloves  Non-hazardous waste must be placed in trash bags and the bags should be disposed of into regular trash