

Tips for Student Data Collection: Secondary

1. As you read through **the protocols/procedures** keep track of:
 - a. The types of information you are asked to gather
 - b. Questions to ask as you read, for example
 - i. What will happen here?
 - ii. Should I do this more than once?
 - iii. I wonder why this turns red.

2. During a **lab techniques discussion**, practice or simply review the protocol/procedure, being sure to:
 - a. Verify that you have places to record all incoming data
 - b. Practice using any measuring devices accurately and precisely - include prompts about how precise your measurement can be.
 - c. Understand how to use and standardize across a class any relative scales or ranges provided
 - i. Numerical Ranks
 - ii. Color
 - iii. Levels of Intensity—"vigorously" vs. "weakly"
 - d. Analyze sample data set collected via the protocols at hand

3. While **collecting data**, be sure to:
 - a. Verify that your data make sense—for example negative masses don't exist
 - b. Verify that your measurements are logical - if you keep measuring the same thing but are getting a different length each time perhaps there is something wrong with the instrument or your technique
 - c. Be flexible- if you find that you want to start collecting additional data, pause to think about how to add them.

4. During a **literature or other secondary search**, try to identify:
 - a. The source of the data you are recording
 - b. Protocols used to obtain the data presented
 - c. Whether multiple sources were tapped to obtain the needed data
 - d. Ways in which the data collection, organization and, interpretation are subjective