



# Enabling Excellence in Scientific Report Writing

David J. Harding

## The Challenge

Students arrive at university unable to craft neat, insightful and original scientific reports.

## The Solution

A new course CHM61-108 was designed to help students to:

- Design a scientific experiment
- Analyse and process data
- Create tables and figures
- Plan their writing
- Practice report writing
- Design a presentation

## The Innovation

The course used extensive **student-led** activities. Data came wherever possible from **real experiments** from my research.

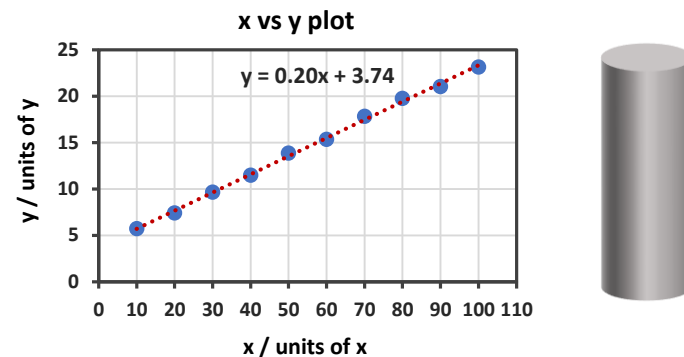
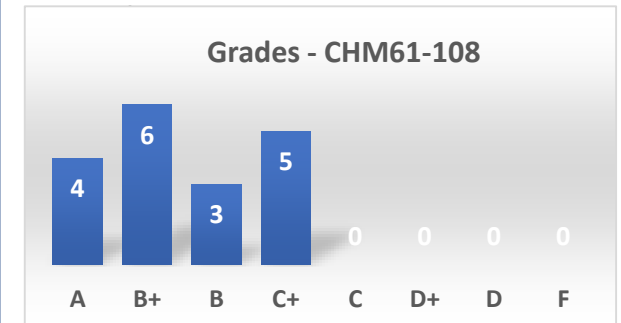


Fig. 1 Sample plot with trendline and drawing.

**In class activities** were designed to improve knowledge retention. Weekly **reports**, marked against **detailed rubrics**, were returned to students one week after submission with the rubric.

## The Results

The average score was 75.3% (4% improvement) with students commenting that they felt much more confident in writing.



## The Future

Next year, quick **write sessions** and **short presentations** will be introduced.