



Cookbook vs. Inquiry Labs

Inquiry Investigation

While most teachers agree that inquiry labs require more independent thinking by students and challenge them to really evaluate the hypothesis, sometimes it is appropriate to use cookbook labs, as well. Below you will find a comparison of the two types of labs that highlight when using each is appropriate.

In cookbook labs, students:

- Follow step-by-step directions
- Practice lab techniques
- Reinforce principles by answering questions

In inquiry-based labs, students:

- Create the procedure
- Determine what data to collect
- Write formal lab reports