

The Role of the Laboratory in Chemistry Student Training

- 1) The lab is an important part of chemistry.
 - chemistry must be "done" to enhance understanding.
 - the lab is a place where students can try things out for themselves instead of taking someone's word for it.
 - there's the common problem of students complaining that the lab doesn't coordinate with the lecture.

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2) The lab teaches students some necessary lab skills.

- it's also important to teach students to "think on their feet" and troubleshoot.

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3) Labs train graduate student TAs as well as undergrads.

- we need TAs to teach the lab – trains them how to present information, deal with students and their questions, etc.

- we also want them to be able to troubleshoot - have TAs do the experiment once, supply them with a list of common troubleshooting tips, etc.