Examining Animal Hairs Part I
1. Obtain animal slides from at least three different animals. Examine carefully each under 100X and 430X. Identify as many parts of the hair as you can.
2. On a separate sheet of paper, make a detailed, large scale colored drawing of the hair.
3. Label all the parts completely
4. Be sure to identify the cuticular scale pattern
5. Write out a complete description of the hair characteristics.
6. In your descriptions, note any similarities between the hairs as well as any distinguishing features of each particular hair.
7. Calculate the medullary index for each hair.

Examining Animal Hairs Part II
1. Obtain an unknown animal hair.
2. Make a wet slide of it.
3. Using the comparison scope, determine what type of animal hair it is.
4. Record all the points of similarity that you used to reach your conclusion.
5. Diagram both and point out the similarities.

Lab Write-up
Your lab report on this investigation will be the answers to the following questions as well as your diagrams and in-class observations.

1. What physical characteristics of hair help distinguish human from animal? Support with specific examples from your observations.
2. Explain why hair is considered *circumstantial* evidence instead of a positive means of identification such as fingerprints are.
3. Even though considered circumstantial, why is hair considered important evidence? Give examples to support your point.
4. What have you learned about hair that you did not know before? Be specific.
5. How can you apply what you have learned from this investigation to a criminal investigation? Be specific and support your answer with clear examples.