

Risk Assessment Guide

Every human activity includes some risk. Students need to consider all possibilities for danger, errors or issues during their experimentation, such as:

- Potential physical danger associated with using dangerous equipment or other equipment that is used in a dangerous way.
- Psychological damage, particularly in experiments which involve human subjects.
- Potential problems with using and/or mixing chemicals as part of the experiment.
- Environmental risks associated with the location of the experiment.

The questions on Form 3 (Risk Assessment) should never be answered as N/A or None. The student may indicate that there is minimal risk, but should also identify what that minimal risk might be. For example, working with data on a computer has minimal risk, but there is still the danger that long times in front of a computer screen can cause back or neck injuries or eye strain.

The idea of requiring the Risk Assessment is to get students in the habit of thinking about what can go wrong during experimentation.