How to run a lab

Prepare a skit that demonstrates a typical lab setting. Include typical problems and solutions.

How do you ensure safety?
Good lab practices, show up on time, make sure equipment is working (if possible).
What do you do if the equipment fails?

Some hints from the physics department

You may have new lab exercise to teach every week. You should become very familiar with the equipment, and consult the Lab Manual and experienced TAs to find what might go wrong with it or what kinds of mistakes students might make. If you can, it is a good idea to observe someone else’s lab session before you teach yours.

- Have a goal (learning focus) for each Lab session, something you want your students to learn. This should be decided in your team meetings after discussion with the professor and other TA’s.

Teaching Laboratory Sections
Make sure you get to your laboratory room at least 5 – 10 minutes before class starts, and do not let the students enter until you are ready. Use this time alone to check the lab equipment to make sure it is all there, neatly arranged, and in working order. If you are teaching a computer lab, you should check to make sure the computers are working properly. Any other quiet time can be used to make final preparations. Make sure the door is locked and the lab is in order before you leave.