

From Notes To Report Answer Key

Sample Rewrite

During the experiment, the reactants-**baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)** and **vinegar (acetic acid)**-underwent a **chemical reaction** that produced **carbon dioxide gas**, causing the balloon to inflate. The container became cool to the touch, indicating an **endothermic reaction**. Observations confirmed that the gas released was carbon dioxide, similar to that produced by human respiration. The reaction occurred rapidly, demonstrating how combining an acid and a base results in gas production and energy absorption.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Students practice transforming **informal observations** into **formal technical writing**, reinforcing their command of **discipline-specific vocabulary** and **scientific structure**.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For emerging writers, provide a model outline (introduction → method → observation → conclusion).
 - For advanced students, encourage inclusion of chemical equations or additional terminology such as *reaction rate* or *energy transfer*.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Have students perform a brief, safe classroom demonstration (e.g., vinegar and baking soda) before rewriting.
 - Use peer review: students exchange rewritten reports and highlight each other's effective use of technical terms.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Ask students to rewrite a field note from another subject (e.g., geography or environmental science) into a professional report.
 - Challenge advanced learners to turn their field report into a short presentation or infographic using proper technical vocabulary.