# Hints for Graphs

1.) Accuracy of the graph is directly dependent on size. Use about 75% of the given graphing space. Itty bitty graph equals itty bitty mark.

2.) Include a title. One sentence or less that describes:

      a.) The scenario of what has occurred

      b.) What the graph is for (what information you hope to get from the graph)

3.) Include labels (with units) for both the x and y axis.

4.) After plotting data on a scatter plot DO NOT CONNECT THE DOTS. More often we need to account for the imperfect world by averaging the data by drawing a "line of best fit". This line is not necessarily straight (linear), but definitely smooth.

5.) If there is more than one line on your graph, add a key or legend to denote what each line is depicting.

6.) The dependent variable is almost always graphed on the y-axis and the independent variable is on the x-axis. This means if time is one of your variables then it will be on the x-axis.