**Graphing Guidelines**

* Purpose of graphing: to express large quantities of data in a concise way
* X-axis: where independent variable is typically plotted (horizontal)
* Y-axis: where dependent variable is typically plotted (vertical)
* Elements of a graph:
	+ Descriptive title (What does the graph show us? Gives additional info that is not available in the axes titles alone. Simplest form: dependent vs independent variable. But elaboration best.)
	+ Axes:
		- Tick marks at regular numbered increments
		- Labelled, with units
	+ Data points
	+ (Legend)
	+ Trendline\*
		- Linear data:
			* Line of best fit: straight line that follows data; has ~same number of points above as below it
		- Non-linear data:
			* Connect the dots
			* Follow the curve

\*not always required

* Good graph:
	+ Will take up a reasonable amount of space. Aim for half a page at least; as much space, the better!
	+ Axes will be scaled appropriately to the amount of space you have to work with. (Should use as much of the axis as possible! Tip: Divide largest value by # of squares)
	+ Neat and tidy! Use pencil for majority of graph! (pen for axes, labels, etc. is ok)







