Writing a Progress Report

The following are excerpts from

_The Elements of Technical Writing_ by Thomas E. Pearsall

Progress reports follow fairly standard formats.

**Introduction**
An introduction _must do_ these two things:
- Announce the subject of the report
- Announce the purpose of the report

In other words, tell your readers what you are talking about and why. Make clear what work you are reporting and why.

**Project Description**
Briefly describe the work being done, being sure to state its purpose and scope. The scope statement breaks the work down into its component tasks.

**Work Completed**
Tell the reader what you have accomplished to date. In a long running project, requiring several progress reports covering several periods, you might divide this section further as follows:
- Summary of work accomplished in preceding periods
- Work accomplished in the reporting period

**Work Planned for Future Periods**
- Work planned for the next period
- Work planned for future periods

**Appraisal of Progress**
Evaluate your progress. Indicate where you are ahead of plan and where you are behind.

As in all writing, don’t complicate your progress reports any more than necessary, but do answer thoroughly these three basic questions
1) What have you done?
2) What are you going to do next?
3) How are you doing?