**Balancing Equations Mini-Lab**

**Materials**

* 250 mL beaker
* 250 mL flask
* White vinegar (on the front lab table)
* Steel wool
* Balloon
* Balance

**Procedure**

1. Gently fluff your piece of steel wool. Be careful not to over fluff it though.
2. Place the steel wool into the 250 mL beaker and add white vinegar until the entire piece of steel wool is immersed. Soak for 4-7 minutes.
3. Remove the steel wool from the vinegar and wring out any excess vinegar.
4. Place the steel wool into the 250 mL flask and cover the opening of the flask with a balloon.
5. Mass the entire steel wool-balloon-flask system and record.
6. Allow this system to sit for 30-45 minutes. Work on your balancing practice.
7. After 30-45 minutes, observe the results and again take the mass of the steel wool-balloon-flask system and record.

Note: In this experiment, the iron in the steel wool rapidly oxidizes (rusts) to form iron (III) oxide.

**Write your reaction and balance it.**