Technical Definition Assignment

Write a 500- to 1,000-word extended definition of ONE of the following terms below or of a term used in your field of study. This definition must be original to you; this is not a research paper. It is an assignment calling upon you to define something you are familiar with in your own words. Keep it simple and write with purpose. However, if you must cite a statistic, cite your sources clearly and accurately (in-text and in a References page: you may use either MLA or APA style for this assignment – whichever you are more comfortable with).

In addition, check that the graphic(s) are appropriate for your audience and purpose and if you use a photo or graphic you didn’t create, it must come from a link from the Free Media Library at mediacommons.psu.edu and all images must have captions in MLA or APA format (this is detailed in a handout posted to Canvas). Also, in a brief note at the start of your definition, indicate the audience and purpose for your definition.

Here are some ideas for technical definitions, but you are not limited to them:

1. Flextime
2. Binding arbitration
3. Robotics
4. An academic major (don’t focus on any particular major; instead, define what a major is)
5. Bioengineering
6. Test tube
7. Petri dish

This definition should be developed logically and clearly in original writing, varied sentence openings, and smooth transitions between ideas. NOTE: Students will receive participation credit for the rough draft only if it has been submitted to and accepted by TurnItIn. There should be no grammar or convention errors and language and tone should be professional and appropriate to your audience.

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