Assignment #4
Technical Description
ENG 271

Description
Identify an object or a process and create a description of it. This assignment is based on Chapters 20 and 21, on our in-class lecture and exercises on definitions and descriptions, and on your small-group work on definitions and descriptions.

Due date
• Before the start of class on Tuesday, March 28
• Submit via e-mail to gretchen.haas@mnsu.edu
• Include “ENG 271 <your first name><your last name> Technical Description” in the subject line

Evaluation Criteria
• You include a formal definition of the object or process in your introduction.
• The introduction delineates the purpose and the scope of the document.
• You define the organizational scheme you use to describe the object or process.
• You include sufficient and precise detail that is presented objectively.
• Visuals are usually a standard element of technical descriptions; if your description would benefit from the inclusion of a visual, I will expect you to do so.
• The description’s design reinforces its organization.

Rhetorical Choices Paper Prompts
Use the following prompts to help you write your paper on the rhetorical choices you made when assembling your description, and feel free to write about other rhetorical choices you made too.
• Who is your audience?
• Why might they be reading this document?
• Did you do any background research to help you understand the process or object to be able to better explain it? If so, what?
• Did you choose to include a visual element in your description? Why or why not?

There are not any wrong answers in this part of the assignment. The only way you can receive less than full credit on this portion of the assignment is by cutting yourself short and not fully documenting your rhetorical choices.