**Policy**: a method of choosing what activities to perform.

<http://www.cs.unc.edu/~dewan/242/s07/notes/intro/node15.html>

**Mechanism**: an implementation that is used to enforce policies

<http://www.cs.unc.edu/~dewan/242/s07/notes/intro/node15.html>

**System call**: a method in which a program interacts with the operating system by making a request to the operating system’s kernel.

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/introduction-of-system-call/>

**Application Program Interface (API)**: specifies how software components should interact with each other. It is a collection of functions and procedures that enable the creation of applications.

<https://apifriends.com/api-management/what-is-an-api/>

**File Descriptor**: a number that identifies an open file within a computer’s operating system.

<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/file-descriptor.htm>

**Interrupt**: signals sent to the operating system by I/O devices that tell the CPU to halt activities and execute a certain part of the operating system.\

<http://faculty.salina.k-state.edu/tim/ossg/Introduction/OSworking.html>

**Trap**: an exception in user process caused by invalid memory access or some other invalid computation.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3149175/what-is-the-difference-between-trap-and-interrupt>

**Trap table**: code that is executed when a trap is triggered

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49050377/what-exactly-is-a-trap-handler>

**Stack pointer**: a pointer that stores the memory address of the last run program in a stack data structure.   
<https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/stack-pointer>

**Kernel mode**: when executing code has complete access to hardware at the lowest level

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1311402/what-is-the-difference-between-user-and-kernel-modes-in-operating-systems>

**Kernel stack**: the part of the user process stack that resides in the kernel memory space.

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-processes-kernel-stack-What-exactly-is-its-use-besides-keeping-the-thread_info>

**Standard output**: the default path where any process can write an output.

<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/stdout.htm>