

Neuro-behaviour ontology (NBO) conventions

A reference sheet for creating and editing classes

Do everything within the OBO Foundry [Principles](#). These take precedence over any lesser expectations drafted by NBO. Key Principles are [\(5\) Scope](#), [\(6\) Textual Definitions](#), [\(7\) Relations](#), [\(12\) Naming Conventions](#), [\(13\) Notification of Changes](#), and [\(16\) Maintenance](#). Feel free to raise an Issue at GitHub to discuss any change to this reference sheet which is needed.

External guidelines

Except where noted below (paragraph numbers are the same in the reference), we will expect contributions to follow the guidelines given in: [Seppälä S, Ruttenberg A, Smith B. Guidelines for writing definitions in ontologies. Ciência da Informação. 2017 Dec 28;46\(1\).](#)

2) Variations:

- Give a source for **every** definition.
- **Try** to draw key terms from the source.
- Use a permanent reference **if possible**.
- If referring to a wiki, **don't** quote it, as the quote may disappear in future.

3.1.1) Variation:

- **Try** to use the *genus proximus*.

3.1.3) N.B. In multi-parent classes:

- use the **least functional** in the *genus*;
- mention **all** other parents in *differentia*.

9.2) Variation:

- Examples and explanatory 'gloss' **might** be placed in the definition, but only after a full-stop.

11.1) Variation:

- **USA** spelling or synonym annotation.

Additional guidelines

A) Don't create a new class simply for a different trigger for an identical behaviour. Instead, annotate the behaviour, or propose a link from a class which names the trigger to the behaviour. But if a behaviour is uniquely dependant on a stimulus or trigger, then do create a class for it.

B) Unless you propose forked classes, try to keep the NBO structure as flat as possible.

DEFINITIONS QUICK REFERENCE

Definition: A **genus** that *differentia*

Label: **(b)** – an (a) that X; (c) – a **(b)** that Y

Structure: As **flat** as possible

Genus: No **and**, no **or**

Trigger/Stimulus: Specific behaviour or **annotation**

Information: **Necessary** (and sufficient if possible)

Punctuation: **Comma** and **full-stop** only

Proofing: **Spelling, grammar, synonyms**

Categorizer: No **type of**, no **sort of**

Use/mention: No **term with**, no **representation of**

Class: **Single, unique, narrow** enough definition

Circularity: No **labels** inside, no **chains** outside

Satisfiability: Yes **instances**, no **contradictions**

Parts: **Match** text with **axioms**

Source: **Always** (can be wiki but **no wiki quote**)

No: **List, Plural, Negative, Nesting**

No: **Generality, Subjectivity, Evaluation**

No: **Abbreviation, Acronym, Verbosity**