

ENCS 282: Mechanism Description Assignment

A Mechanism Description depicts the shape of an object and how it is spatially arranged. Typically, the description includes the following explanations in this order:

- What is it?
- What is its function?
- What does it look like?
- What are the main parts?
 - Describe each of the parts
 - Provide a mechanism description of each of the parts, if necessary.

This is a summary of what was presented during lecture.

Assignment:

You will be assigned a simple mechanism to study (this mechanism will be shown to you during your tutorial). This mechanism will contain at least one moving part. You must write about the exact mechanism that you are shown in tutorial (not something similar).

1. Write a detailed description of the mechanism's physical appearance and its operating principle (the physical or chemical principles that allow it to operate).
2. Your description must include illustrations and labeled orthographic drawings or schematics.
3. Proofread your description for comprehension, spelling and grammar as well as audience appropriateness.

Format of the Mechanism Description

The mechanical description should be 2-3 pages (not including references and the bibliography), with double-spaced text and properly formatted references. Use complete sentences (DO NOT use point form). The typeface should be in the Times font family and the size should be 10- or 12-point. All illustrations should be properly formatted, labeled and referenced. The document should have a proper title (i.e. the title "Assignment 1" is incorrect) written on a separate title page; the author's name should appear on the title page. Each page of document should be numbered except for the title page. Include illustrations that add to the description; they should not be frivolous, distracting or misrepresentative. Every visual element should also be numbered and should be well organized. Images taken from the Internet should have proper citations. Likewise, the text should also adhere to these standards. This assignment will be handed in on Moodle.

A sample of a Mechanism Description is included in your course readings. However, be sure that your document includes these features:

Title

Make the title appropriate to the object. The title should read: *A Mechanical Description of X*

(where 'X' is your object)

Author's name

Don't forget to put your name and student ID.

Introduction

- Intent of the document
- Definition of the object: name, class, characteristics, operating principles
- Description of the overall function of the unit with specific detail
- Preview: overall physical description of the unit in specific detail

Body

This section contains paragraphs of complete sentences indicating a parts 'breakdown' for each part.

- Function(s)
- Placement
- Colour(s)
- Texture/Surface Finish
- Measurement
- Shape/Form
- Material

Conclusion

Make closing remarks such as discussion of the significance of the object in context.

References

All references should be of high quality and should pass the CRAAP test (see handout or refer to the lecture on library resources). **The quality of the sources that you reference in the assignment will be evaluated.** Your bibliography should include the following:

- 3-5 properly formatted (APA) references.
- Appendix List of Illustrations and figures
- Numbered figures with sources indicated (see handout on illustrations)