

Unit 1:3 – Peer Review of Three Definitions

To: Quentin Michalchuk, Member of the ENGL 301A Writing Team, Pencil Pack

From: Eugenia Fasciani, ENGL 301A Student

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Subject: Peer Review of Three Definitions Assignment

Thank you for submitting your assignment promptly. This is a very informative overview of 'Parathion,' that is presented in a clear and concise manner. Please see below for some comments and suggestions that may be helpful in editing the assignment.

First impressions

The writing style is articulate and coherent. The information presented in the expanded definition provided a good overview of the topic in a way that was both direct and easy to understand for a general audience.

With regard to the definition itself, there are a number of questions that if addressed may strengthen the definition of Parathion.

- What are the physical properties of parathion?
- Is there a drug or pesticide that acts like parathion, but without the same levels of toxicity? The farmer in the scenario would benefit from being able to recognize parathion if it was ever encountered ever encounter it.
- How does it relate to other pesticides? There is also an opportunity to expand on the definition by providing a short compare and contrast analysis that would help to showcase how parathion fits into a larger category

Overall, a very strongly written piece of work with very little revision needed mainly for contextual purposes.

Purpose

The objective of the definition aligned with the instructions given for the assignment and was presented shortly after the introduction. While it is easy to deviate from the purpose when describing something of this nature, at no point did the definition stray from its goal throughout the document.

Comments and suggestions

The effort to make this definition accessible to a hypothetical farmer and a general audience is not lost. Below are some suggestions for making the assignment easier to understand for those without a background in chemistry:

- Defining terminology relating to chemistry (e.g. acetylcholine in paragraph two).
- Contextualising terms like acetylcholinesterases by providing short definitions of what it is

Organization

This document is well-organized. Each paragraph is well-thought-out and are prefaced by the appropriate headings that ensures a natural flow of information. Furthermore, the visuals used throughout the assignment are relevant to the material that was being explained.

The incorporation of several different techniques enriched the expanded definition, making it appear robust and to the point. The methods of expansions that have been identified include:

- History
- Operating Principle
- Analysis of Parts
- Visuals
- Examples

In line with the requirements of the assignment, the expansion methods used and the manner in which they are deployed, work well to outline virtually all aspects of the concept without overwhelming the reader. There is a delicate balance between explaining in technical terms what the chemical functions of the drug are, and how these reactions manifest as physical symptoms. This is done particularly well and no doubt it is elevated by a combination of techniques arranged in this write-up.

The individual sections are logically organized, and each topic sentence is stated with purpose and accuracy. Some suggestions for this section include:

- Adding a concluding sentence that would summarize the ideas explored in the definition.
- Reviewing the citation requirements for MLA/APA formatting there are some inconsistencies

Final impression

It was a pleasure to have learned something new today. The expanded definition that was provided was thoughtful and engaging, leaving the reader to question the wider implications of the use of pesticides such as Parathion. With the following tips, the definitions will improve upon an already polished document:

- Expanding the definition to include the physical properties of parathion and how it compares to a similar pesticide/drug.
- Including a short explanation of scientific jargon (e.g. acetylcholinesterases) that is incorporated in the definition.
- Developing a clearer conclusion
- Reviewing the citation guidelines with regard to the reference list (Purdue Writing Lab is a great resource)

It is my desire that this will aid you in moving forward with the final revision. If you have any questions, you may reach me by email at: e.fasciani@alumni.ubc.ca.