**List three questions that came to mind in reading your teammate’s expanded definition draft.**

1. What is DNA?
2. How reliable of a technique is PCR?
3. What lab technique would scientists use if there was a significant source of DNA?

**Initial Impressions**

**Did you fully understand the material on your first reading?**
Although the expanded definition of PCR was a fascinating read, I didn’t fully understand the material on my first reading. I found myself having to go over the material through and through to fully grasp it. I think this is largely due to my lack of scientific background. However, the structuring of the expanded definition into smaller sections made it easier for me to understand.

**Has the writer given you enough information in the definition?**
Yes, the writer has given me plenty of information. The graphic chosen to support the definition added dimension in a way text couldn’t have. The graphic allowed me to visualize the process of PCR. I would have preferred a more thorough explanation of STR though, since it seems to be a crucial component of PCR’s application.

**Do you have questions about the content of the definition?**
Yes, I had questions about terms that were listed but not defined, such as: DNA, thermal cycles, enzyme, nucleotides, phosphate backbone of DNA, and electrophoresis machine.

**If you were the writer’s supervisor or editor, would you approve the definition without revision?**If I was the writer’s editor, I would not approve the definition without revision. There were a couple of minor grammatical errors in the definition, and a few sentences that could have been broken down to into shorter sentences. I would also exclude references to technical jargon that aren’t essential to understanding the term in question. Example: in the sentence “Taq Polymerase: A highly thermostable DNA polymerase, or enzyme,derived from bacterium *Thermus aquaticus* that creates a new strand of DNA by sequentially adding nucleotides,” the source of Taq Polymerase is non-essential to the definition of PCR.

**Comments about Purpose**

**Is the purpose of the definition clearly defined here?**
Yes, the purpose of the definition is clearly defined. The writer stated clearly that the purpose of the definition was to introduce the term PCR, not to explain every aspect of it.

**Do any parts of the document stray from the intended purpose?**
I would have preferred if the writer had emphasized the importance of PCR more, rather than detailing the steps of it. However, that is just my preference as a non-technical reader. A great way of expanding PCR’s importance would be to lengthen the final paragraph of the definition.

**Comments about Audience**

I am not familiar with the term identified. I found the structuring of the expanded definition in three subsections to be helpful. The writer touched on the components of the term, its process, and its application. I also really liked the writer’s choice of graphic.

However, I would recommend assessing how much the average reader would like know or not know about the subject matter. I would go back and simplify the sentences as much as possible, and cut out non-essential technical jargon.

**List words and phrases you don’t know at all.**DNA, thermal cycles, enzyme, nucleotides, phosphate backbone of DNA, and electrophoresis machine.

**List words and phrases you don’t know in this particular context.**
None.

**Comments about Organization**

I can identify two methods of expansion used in this definition. They are:

* Analysis
* Graphic

The writer did an excellent job with these two methods, however the assignment requires four methods of expansion. Perhaps the definition can be improved with a paragraph on the etymology of PCR, and a comparison between PCR and another widespread lab technique.

**Does each section of the definition perform its intended task?**Yes, each section of the definition performs its intended task.

**Does the definition contain clear forecasting statements in its thesis and topic sentences?**Yes.

**Are the visuals useful and correctly labeled?**
Yes and yes.

**Overall Final Impressions**

**What element of this document is most in need of improvement and why?**I would revise the parenthetical definition of PCR. Parenthetical definitions require the use of parentheses, and the current definition doesn’t use this.

**What is the most effective element of this document and why?**The writer introduced the document with a relevant scenario, mentioning CSI, Law and Order, and how DNA is analyzed in real life. This really grabbed my attention and sparked my interest in the definition, prompting me to read further to learn more about PCR.