

Technical Description – Annotation

Technical descriptions are usually developed in the context of a longer technical document such as an instructional manual or proposal. In this vein, the technical description located at the following URL is part of a Web page that describes Life Stages, a computer virus or worm, and offers instructions for eradicating the worm should your system be infected:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/vbs.stages.a.html>

- Notice that the description begins with a paragraph that explains in general terms how the Life Stages worm works. Next, the description summarizes the threat assessment of the worm. (Note that many terms are hyperlinked to a glossary where the terms are defined, a plus for readers who might not be as technically savvy.)
- In the Technical Details section, the language becomes more technical. The description is written in the passive voice and technical details about how a computer system is affected by the worm are provided, which indicates that the author assumes the reader possesses some amount of technical knowledge.
- The Recommendations section offers advice on how to avoid a computer virus infection in general, and the Removal Instructions section explains how to eradicate this particular virus. The author switches back to the second person, talking directly to the reader by explaining how to download the repair tool and eradicate the worm from your system.