

CHECKLIST for Usability of Definitions

(Numbers in parentheses refer to the first page of discussion.)

Content

- Is the type of definition (parenthetical, sentence, expanded), suited to its purpose and user's needs? (482)
- Does the definition adequately classify the item? (496)
- Does the definition clarify, rather than obscure, the meaning? (482)
- Is the expanded definition adequately developed? (484)
- Are all data sources documented? (489)
- Are visuals employed adequately and appropriately? (488)
- Does the sentence definition describe features that distinguish the item from all other items in the same class? (482)

Arrangement

- Is the expanded definition unified and coherent (like an essay)? (490)
- Are transitions adequate? (490)
- Does the definition appear in the appropriate location? (493)

Style and Page Design

- Is the definition in plain English? (265)
- Will the level of technicality connect with the audience? (30)
- Are sentences clear, concise, and fluent? (244)
- Is word choice precise? (264)
- Is the definition grammatical? (Appendix C)
- Is the definition ethically and legally acceptable? (481)
- Is page design inviting and accessible? (366)