Response Paper: Instructions

Gambling is the first and, currently, only behavioral addiction. Internet gaming may soon be the second. Time was that only substances taken into the body and affecting the mind were “addictive.” However, increasingly, studies are documenting that behaviors can have the same genetic origins and induce chemical changes and adverse consequences that are similar to those for substance-based addictions.

Please write a four- to five-page response paper that addresses the following questions and issues:

* Are all behaviors potentially addictive for some people? How do we decide which ones become “disorders”?
* Where is the intersection between biology and free will? Just because someone does something to excess, should they be diagnosed with a disorder?
* What possible abuses could flow from labeling bad behavior as “addiction”? Where does personal responsibility fit in?
* Do your answers differ based on whether the addiction is substance-based or behavioral? Why or why not?
* Where do social workers fit in these decisions?

Where possible, bring in evidence from your readings to support your position. You may also use examples from material in other classes or from your job or practicum experiences.

The paper should be double-spaced, one-inch margins, in 12-point type, and saved as a Word document.