

Paraphrasing



**MIDDLE SCHOOL
LANGUAGE ARTS**

How will I paraphrase what I read while avoiding plagiarism?

- ◆ Plagiarism
- ◆ Paraphrase
- ◆ Why? How? When?
- ◆ Examples & Practice
- ◆ Summary
- ◆ Citations



How do I avoid plagiarism?



- ◆ Plagiarism-Copying someone else's work without giving them credit



- ◆ Paraphrase the Text
 - ✦ Writing your own version of the text in a new way
 - ✦ A legal way to “borrow” someone else's work
 - ✦ A more detailed restatement than a summary

Why paraphrase?

- ◆ You cannot quote everything!
- ◆ Quoting should only be done when information is extremely important.
- ◆ The brain power needed to be able to paraphrase means you completely grasp the text.
- ◆ Paraphrasing helps you avoid plagiarism.
- ◆ You should include information from credible, reliable sources to strengthen your perspective.

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Information Paraphrased From: Purdue Online Writing Lab

How? Review the 6 Steps to Paraphrasing...



1. Read & Re-read the original passage (chunk, highlight, define unknown terms, use context clues)
2. Move the original aside and rewrite what you read
3. Focus mainly on information that answers your subtopic questions
4. Check your version with the original to make sure it is accurate
5. Use quotation marks when using exact words
6. Acknowledge the original source so the reader knows the work is not yours

When do I paraphrase?



- ◆ When the quote is long and wordy
- ◆ When the quote is not powerful
- ◆ When the source is unknown
- ◆ When you want to use someone else's work
- ◆ When you are writing in all classes-Not Just Language Arts



Paraphrase ≠ Summary



- ◆ **Summary**-Brief description of the main ideas, rewritten in a concise way. Summary is general and broad. You must give credit to the original author.
- ◆ **Paraphrase**-Your own version of the text written in a different way. Paraphrased information does not omit information. You must give credit to the original author.



A Strong Example of Paraphrasing

Original Text: Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. Writing Research Papers. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

Paraphrased Text: In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).

A Non-Example of Paraphrasing

Original Text: Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. Writing Research Papers. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

Paraphrased Text: Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

Paraphrase ≠ Summary



- ◆ **Summary**-Brief description of the main ideas, rewritten in a concise way. Summary is general and broad. You must give credit to the original author.
- ◆ **Paraphrase**-Your own version of the text written in a different way. Paraphrased information does not omit information. You must give credit to the original author.



Paraphrase the Following...



- ◆ **Subtopic Question:** Why is bullying so common? Use the information below and paraphrase the answer to the question.
- ◆ A major reason why bullying is so common is that few witnesses ever stand up against it. Instead, most people who see bullying either watch or “laugh along”, an act which actually contributes to the problems caused by bullies.

Paraphrase the Following...



- ◆ A major reason why bullying is so common is that few witnesses ever stand up against it. Instead, most people who see bullying either watch or “laugh along”, an act which actually contributes to the problems caused by bullies.
- ◆ Your paraphrase of the above:

Paraphrase the Following ...



- ◆ **Subtopic Question:** What can you do when you are being bullied? Use the information below and paraphrase the answer to the question. Use only the information that answers the question.
- ◆ Anyone who has been the target of a bully knows that it is a lonely and difficult position. But people singled out by bullies are not powerless. If the bully's attention is aimed at you, there are actions you can take to prevent or diminish the attack

Paraphrase the Following ...



- ◆ Anyone who has been the target of a bully knows that it is a lonely and difficult position. But people singled out by bullies are not powerless. If the bully's attention is aimed at you, there are actions you can take to prevent or diminish the attack.
- ◆ Your paraphrase of the above:

References



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Modern Language Association
MLA Style