

The Art of Paraphrasing



<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-paraphrasing.html>

Paraphrasing involves taking a set of facts or opinions and rewording them. When paraphrasing, it is important to keep the original meaning and to present it in a new form. Basically, you are simply writing something in your own words that expresses the original idea.

Paraphrasing Sentences

Here are some sentences that have been paraphrased:

Original: Mary's life spanned years of incredible change for women.

Paraphrase: Mary lived through an era of liberating reform for women.

Original: Giraffes like Acacia leaves and hay and they can consume 75 pounds of food a day.

Paraphrase: A giraffe can eat up to 75 pounds of Acacia leaves and hay everyday.

Original: Any trip to Italy should include a visit to Tuscany to sample their exquisite wines.

Paraphrase: Be sure to include a Tuscan wine-tasting experience when visiting Italy.

Here is an example of paraphrasing of a longer passage.

Original Passage:

In *The Sopranos*, the mob is besieged as much by inner infidelity as it is by the federal government. Early in the series, the greatest threat to Tony's Family is his own biological family. One of his closest associates turns witness for the FBI, his mother colludes with his uncle to contract a hit on Tony, and his kids click through Web sites that track the federal crackdown in Tony's gangland.

Paraphrased Passage:

In the first season of *The Sopranos*, Tony Soprano's mobster activities are more threatened by members of his biological family than by agents of the federal government. This familial betrayal is multi-pronged. Tony's closest friend and associate is an FBI informant, his mother and uncle are conspiring to have him killed, and his children are surfing the Web for information about his activities.

Here is an example of paraphrasing of a longer passage.

Original Passage:

In **The Sopranos**, the **mob** is besieged as much by inner infidelity as it is by the federal government. Early in the series, the greatest **threat** to Tony's **Family** is his own **biological family**. One of his closest associates turns witness for the **FBI**, his **mother** colludes with his **uncle** to contract a hit on Tony, and his **kids** click through Web sites that track the federal crackdown in Tony's gangland.

Paraphrased Passage:

In the first season of **The Sopranos**, Tony Soprano's **mobster** activities are more **threatened** by members of his **biological family** than by agents of the federal government. This familial betrayal is multi-pronged. Tony's closest friend and associate is an **FBI** informant, his **mother** and **uncle** are conspiring to have him killed, and his **children** are surfing the Web for information about his activities.

Here is a summary of some of the changes made during the paraphrasing process:

Early in the series = first season

More threatened = greatest threat

Closest friend and associate = one family member

His mother colludes with his uncle = his mother and uncle are conspiring

His kids click through Web sites = his children are surfing the Web

Avoiding Plagiarism

There is a fine line between plagiarism and paraphrasing. If the wording of the paraphrase is too close to the wording of the original content, then it is plagiarism. The main ideas need to come through, but the wording has to be your own.

To use another person's writing in your own can be accomplished with quotes and citations. A quote will need to be the exact wording and the author and source will need to be identified.

Paraphrasing usually makes the passage shorter than the original. Another option is to use a summary that is much shorter than the original

6 Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.

Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card.

Jot down a few words below your paraphrase to remind you later how you envision using this material. At the top of the note card, write a key word or phrase to indicate the subject of your paraphrase.

Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.

Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.

Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to

The original passage:

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.

A plagiarized version:

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.

A legitimate paraphrase:

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).



Online Writing Lab

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/>

An acceptable summary:

Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 46-47).

That's all!

