

Paraphrasing

What is Paraphrasing?

Paraphrasing is putting the ideas of another into your own words and following it with the proper citation format.

Why Paraphrase?

Because it's awesome! Actually, many prefer paraphrasing over quoting because it allows the paper to have a unified voice and can be more concise than providing a series of long quotes that share similar ideas. Also, paraphrasing can show that the writer has taken the time to analyze and think about what she has read.

Tips for Paraphrasing

- Find an example of how someone else has paraphrased and learn from her style (See Below).
- Find a few passages that all share similar ideas and combine them in your own words.
- Set a limit of how long your paraphrase can be. For example, only using two sentences to paraphrase a 10 sentence paragraph.
- Read a passage, put it aside for a few minutes, and then try to remember what it said.
- Take notes while you read, this way you can just summarize your notes.
- Cite all of the ideas that are not your own.

Things to Avoid

- Just changing a few words or “rearranging ideas.”
- Not including the proper citation.
- Using a thesaurus to help you change a few words.

Example Paraphrase

- “Obstetricians are the primary success for the delivery of almost all infants born in the United States” (Coleman, 2009, p. 14).
 - Coleman (2009) says that without obstetricians child births would not be as successful.