

Writing a Paraphrase

Before you paraphrase: Simplify the language & identify Key words. Remember the key to a good paraphrase is effectively presenting the author's ideas not the author's own words.

Remember the 6 steps& use them as a Strategy for Paraphrasing:

1. "Reread the original passage until you understand it.
2. [Cite] the source (including the page)... so that you can credit it easily."
3. "Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase.
4. Jot down a few words below your paraphrase to remind you later how you imagine using this material... write a key word or phrase to indicate the subject of your paraphrase."
5. "Check your paraphrase with the original to make sure that yours accurately expresses all the important information in a new form.
6. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phrase you have borrowed exactly from the source."

*QUAWCK: Quotation marks, Understand, Accuracy, Write, Citation, Keywords.

Example:

Original text:

"Artistic, diverse and ever-changing, Vancouver is a hub of cultural activity. The fact that the city boasts a number of notable cultural institutions, such as the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Vancouver Opera, is known to many" (Lang 20).

Incorrect paraphrase:

Creative and varied, Vancouver has a lot of culture. The idea that Vancouver has several cultural centers, like the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Vancouver Opera, is common knowledge to everyone (Lang 20).

Correct paraphrase:

Vancouver is a major cultural centre on Canada's west coast. The Vancouver Art Gallery and the Vancouver Opera are just two examples of its many famous cultural venues (Lang 20).

Now You Try

Write a paraphrase for this sentence:

"The style of the information students encounter in their university courses is shaped by the research situations that produced it" (Giltrow et al. 10).

Try this longer passage:

“Like a family caring for its members, the hospital cares for members of the community. But the scale of care is not domestic and private, like family care, but civic and public. This conflict in scale can disorient and alienate the patient, confusing or coercing him, adding to his distress” (Giltrow et al. 67).

Now paraphrase this paragraph:

“To write a successful book on the possibilities of extraterrestrial life would require good knowledge in many widely separated fields. The author would have to be a broad biologist, familiar with all the forms that have been explored by life on earth. He would have to know organic chemistry, which is concerned with carbon compounds, and also of inorganic chemistry. He would have to know the many kinds of physics that deal with conditions in the atmospheres, the oceans and on the surfaces of other planets than the earth. He would have to know enough about astronomy to read the extremely difficult literature that professional astronomers circulate in their small, charmed circle” (Leonard 182-183).

Works Cited

- Giltrow, Janet et al. *Academic Writing – an Introduction*, 2nd ed. Buffalo: Broadview Press, 2009. Print.
- Lang, Wendee. “Finding Inspiration”. *Megaphone*. 18 Jan 2013. 121.
- Leonard, Jonathan Norton. “Other-Worldly Life”. *Great Essays in Science*. Ed. Martin Gardner. Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1994. 182-195.