

Paraphrasing



What is a paraphrase?



- ▶ a concise, detailed summary of key information or a main idea from another author *put into your own words* for the purpose of your essay;

(“Paraphrase: Write It in Your Own Words”)

What is a paraphrase?

- ▶ an acceptable way to include other authors *when you cite properly* using MLA, APA, CMS, etc.

(“Paraphrase: Write It in Your Own Words”)

What a paraphrase is not

- ▶ It is **not** a quote: “This is not paraphrasing” (Kaur, 2017).
- ▶ “[A]pproach your essay as an opportunity for clear and fluent expression of independent, informed thinking” (Babington and LePan 16).
 - ▶ Also **not** a paraphrase.

What a paraphrase is also not

- ▶ **NOT ONLY** substituting the author's words with synonyms, rearranging the sentence, combining sentences, or changing the voice.

An example of paraphrasing:

Original passage:

“We are repelled by the prospect of cloning human beings not because of the strangeness or novelty of the undertaking, but because we intuit and feel, immediately and without argument, the violation of things that we rightfully hold dear. Repugnance, here as elsewhere, revolts against the excesses of human willfulness, warning us not to transgress what is unspeakably profound” (Kass, 70).



A good paraphrase:

Kass argues that feeling revolted by human cloning is justified: this feeling alerts us to a violation of something deemed sacred, and compels us to reject our own willingness to violate this sacredness (70).

An example of plagiarism:

Original passage:

“We are repelled by the prospect of cloning human beings not because of the strangeness or novelty of the undertaking, but because we intuit and feel, immediately and without argument, the violation of things that we rightfully hold dear. Repugnance, here as elsewhere, revolts against the excesses of human willfulness, warning us not to transgress what is unspeakably profound” (Kass, 70).



NOT A PARAPHRASE – plagiarism

We are revolted by cloning human beings not because of its newness, but because we immediately feel, without the need for logic, the violation of the sacred. Repugnance, as always, rebels against our excesses, warning us not to transgress what is unspeakably profound. Repugnance, here as elsewhere, revolts against the excesses of human willfulness, warning us not to transgress what is unspeakably profound.”

plagiarism

A red prohibition sign (a circle with a diagonal slash) is superimposed over the word "plagiarism" in a black, handwritten-style font.

Why is it important?

- Consistent writing voice.
- Limit the amount of direct quoting.
- Understand the material.
- Authority and legitimacy.

How is it used well?

- Be brief.
- Be accurate.
- If you are unsure about the meaning of a passage, please ask!

Are these good paraphrases?

“One time, I threw a candy wrapper on the street. I was with a friend who said to me, ‘You just littered on the street! Don't you care about the environment?’ And I thought about it, and I said, ‘You know what? This isn't the environment. This is New York City. New York City is not the environment. New York City is a giant piece of litter. Next to Mexico City, it's the shittiest piece of litter in the world’” (Székely, 2011).

1. Some people litter on city streets, and others will occasionally respond negatively (Székely, 2011).
2. On occasion, people will litter in large cities. In response, other concerned citizens may decry their littering. However, upon reflection, those who litter in large cities may realize that big cities are themselves large pieces of litter. Following this logic, cities such as New York City and Mexico City are some of the largest pieces of litter in the world (Székely, 2011).
3. Though we have been taught that littering is bad, those who live in large metropolitan areas seem unaware that their own beloved cities are nothing more than concentrated litter (Székely, 2011).

What about these?

I can't pledge allegiance to your flag
'Cause I can't find no reconciliation
with your past
When there was nothing equal for my
people in your math;
You forced us in the ghetto and then
you took our dads.
The belly of the beast, these streets
are demons' abs.
I'm telling you that setup in them sit-
ups is so sad (Lupe Fiasco, 2012).

1. Hip hop is often a means of expression for black artists who feel disillusioned by American culture because of unrepentant slavery, the extensive imprisonment of black men, and a sinister street life.
2. Fiasco isn't able to swear loyalty to the American flag because America's past involvement with slavery has never been reconciled. Black Americans were forced into urban poverty, and black men have been subjected to mass imprisonment. Street life for many black Americans resembles a demonic, sorrowful presence (Lupe Fiasco, 2012).
3. According to some black musicians they can find "no reconciliation with [America's] past...forced in the ghetto" with their fathers taken from them, which is why they "can't pledge alliance" to the American flag (Lupe Fiasco, 2012).

Six steps to paraphrase well

- 1) “Reread the original passage until you understand it.
- 2) [Cite] the source (including the page)... so that you can credit it easily.”

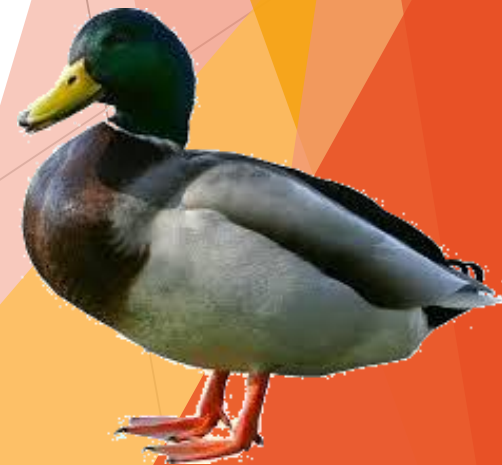
Six steps to paraphrase well

- 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.”

Six steps to paraphrase well

- 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, Key words.



**Working on an
example:**

1. Read the passage until you get it

The passage that begins with “Mice (91.4%)
were by far the most...”

2. Citation

- ▶ Record the citation.
- ▶ Always make note of where you retrieved the information: AUTHOR and PAGE!!
- ▶ It can be easy to forget if the notes you took are your own ideas or if they are a paraphrase of someone else. This could result in an academic alert!
- ▶ *Making these notes will help you return to the source if you ever need to double check something!

3. Set the passage aside and write down your paraphrase

- ▶ Do this part alone. You are practicing, so don't worry about making mistakes.
- ▶ Try to paraphrase in two sentences or less.

4. Key words and subject

- ▶ Write down a few key words about your paraphrase, and a short phrase representing the subject of your paraphrase.

5. Check your paraphrase with the original

- ▶ Compare your paraphrase with the original. Have you missed anything?
- ▶ Swap paraphrases with the person next to you. Have they missed anything? What could you suggest they add or take out? Is anything inaccurate?

6. Make sure any original terminology is in quotes

- ▶ Unique and specific terms and jargon **can be quoted**. Otherwise, try your best to limit the use of quotations in your paraphrase.

1. Read the passage until you get it (goal is two sentences!)

The passage that begins with “Persuasion is a central element in many medical situations...”

Remember:



***A successful paraphrase is
about sharing the author's
ideas,
NOT just using similar words.***

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