

Paraphrase to Avoid Plagiarism

A **paraphrase** is...

1. putting a passage from source material (a book, website, etc.) into your own words.
2. a legitimate way (when accompanied by accurate documentation) to borrow ideas from a source.
3. a more detailed restatement than a summary, which focuses concisely on a single main idea.

Only an occasional word (but not whole phrases) from the original source should appear in the paraphrase, and the sentence structure should not reflect that of the source.

6 Steps for Effective Paraphrasing

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card.
3. 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.
4. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to incorporate the material into your paper.

Refer to your handout on MLA Parenthetical Citations for information about how to cite paraphrases within the body of your paper.

Adapted from the OWL at Purdue: <http://owl.english.purdue/owl/resource/563/01/>

Paraphrase to Avoid Plagiarism

A **paraphrase** is...

- putting a passage from source material (a book, website, etc.) into your own words.
- a legitimate way (when accompanied by accurate documentation) to borrow ideas from a source.
- a more detailed restatement than a summary, which focuses concisely on a single main idea.

Only an occasional word (but not whole phrases) from the original source should appear in the paraphrase, and the sentence structure should not reflect that of the source.

6 Steps for Effective Paraphrasing

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card.
3. 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.
4. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to incorporate the material into your paper.

Refer to your handout on MLA Parenthetical Citations for information about how to cite paraphrases within the body of your paper.

Adapted from the OWL at Purdue: <http://owl.english.purdue/owl/resource/563/01/>