



Writing Centre

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is using your own words to tell the reader what another author has said while giving credit to that author.

Why is Paraphrasing Important?

- It is shorter than the original quotation.
- It helps you to focus on the information that is relevant to your chosen topic.
- It demonstrates to the reader that you understand what you have read and how it applies to your assignment.
- It is preferred in APA papers.

Characteristics of a Proper Paraphrase:

- The main idea of the text is accurately portrayed in your paraphrase.
- The wording of the original text and your paraphrase are different.
- The sentence structure of the original text and your paraphrase are different.
- The paraphrase has been properly cited according to the assigned Citation Style Guide.

How to Paraphrase:

1. Find the Main Idea

- Identify the key points or main ideas involved in the author's work.

2. Use Different Words

- Use synonyms and other phrases to express the key points differently than the author.

3. Change the Order of Ideas

- Change the sentence structure of the key point you are trying to replicate in your paper.

4. Cite the Original Author

- Provide your in-text and source material citations according to the Citation Style Guide of your assignment.

Paraphrase Example:

e.g.: Once upon a time there lived in a certain village a little country girl, the prettiest creature who was ever seen. Her mother was excessively fond of her, and her grandmother doted on her still more. This good woman had a little red riding hood made for her. It suited the girl so extremely well that everybody called her Little Red Riding Hood.

e.g.: Little Red Riding Hood is named after the red robe her grandmother had made for her.

Source: Charles Perrault, *Histoires ou contes du temps passé, avec des moralités: Contes de ma mère l'Oye* (Paris, 1697).