

Paraphrase vs. Summarize

What's the difference-- and why I should care



Source: Plotnick, Jerry. "Paraphrase and Summary." *University College*, University of Toronto, nd., www.uc.utoronto.ca/paraphrase.

Definitions

Paraphrase

To paraphrase means to express someone else's ideas in your own language.

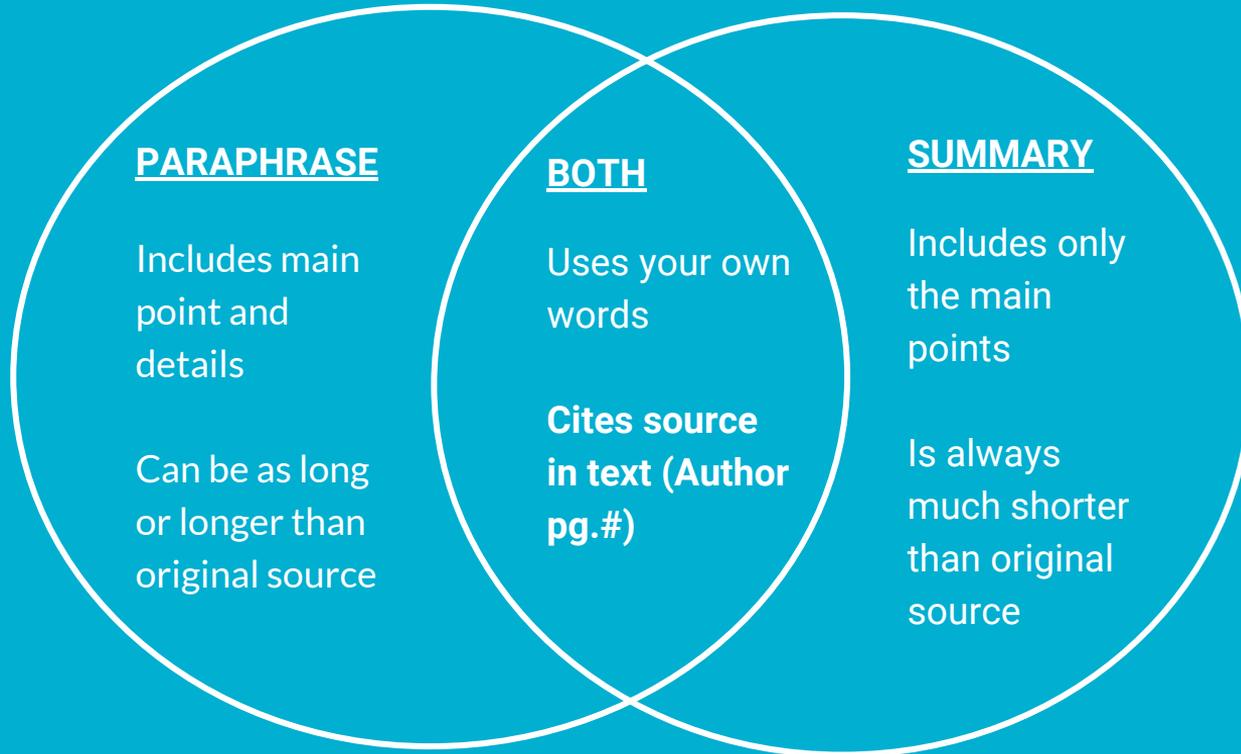
It means explaining what a certain idea means in your own words (almost like you're explaining it to a younger student.)

Summarize

To summarize means to condense to the most essential points of someone else's work.

It is presenting the essential parts, but you are using your own words!

Similarities and Differences



Why not just quote?

Paraphrase and summary are important tools in essay writing because they allow you to include other people's ideas without cluttering up your essay with quotations. The general rule is that a paper should include no more than **15 - 20 percent quoted material**.

- If you have too many quotes, it will look like you are trying to make a short paper longer
- It will look like you don't understand the material

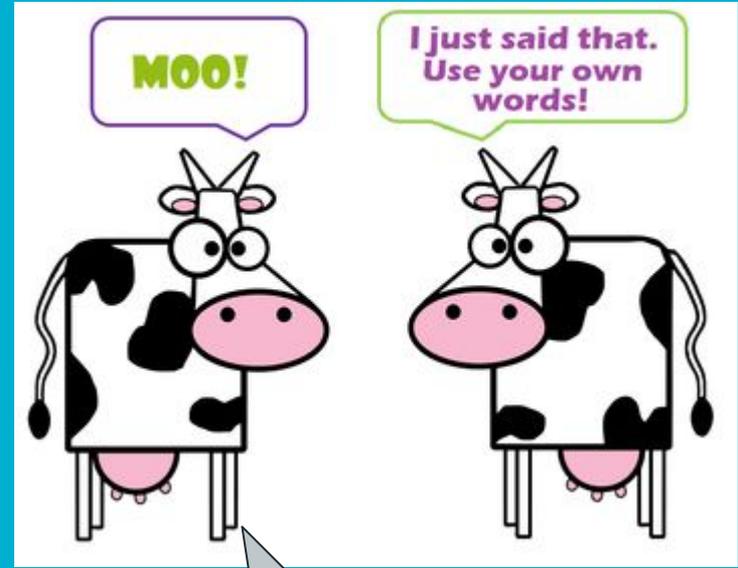
Consider relying on paraphrasing and summarizing when an idea from one of your sources is important to your essay but the wording is not.

How to Paraphrase —without Plagiarizing

You must provide a reference, just like a quote, but without the quotation marks.

The paraphrase must be entirely in your own words. You must do more than merely substitute phrases here and there. You must also completely alter the sentence structure.

You are explaining the quote to your reader.



"Moo" (Cow 2, 2018).

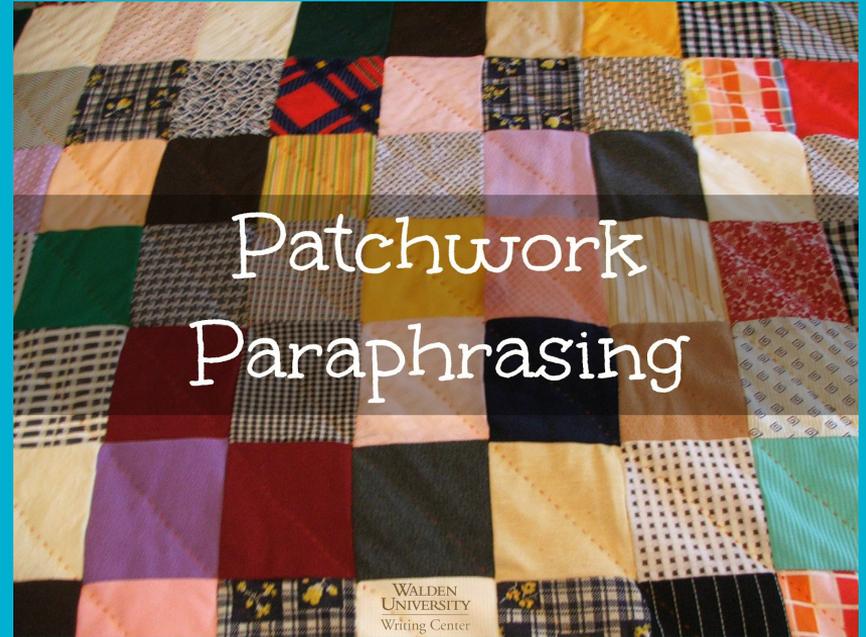
It can be difficult to find new words for an idea that is already well expressed.

— Use these strategies for paraphrasing:

- When you are at the note-taking stage, and you come across a passage that may be useful for your essay, do not copy the passage word-for-word (unless you think you will want to quote it.)
- Use bullet points when note-taking-- you will have to formulate your own sentences.
- Make sure to include the source and page number of the original passage so that you can make a proper reference later on.

Don't be a Quilter!!

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Patchwork paraphrasing is sometimes referred to as "quilted text"--writing that does not use the author's voice but is instead primarily made up of words and phrases from the original source or sources.



**Rely on your notes rather than on the author's work.
Avoid borrowing from the original passage
Follow this simple sequence:**

1. Convert the ideas from your notes into full sentences.
2. Provide a reference.
3. Go back to the original to ensure that (a) your paraphrase is accurate and (b) you have truly said things in your own words.

Paraphrase Example

Example

- **Original quote:**

“Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes” (Lester 46).

- **Paraphrase:**

In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46).

Work Cited

Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

Paraphrasing is not just changing a few words:

- It is restating in your own words



Find & Replace

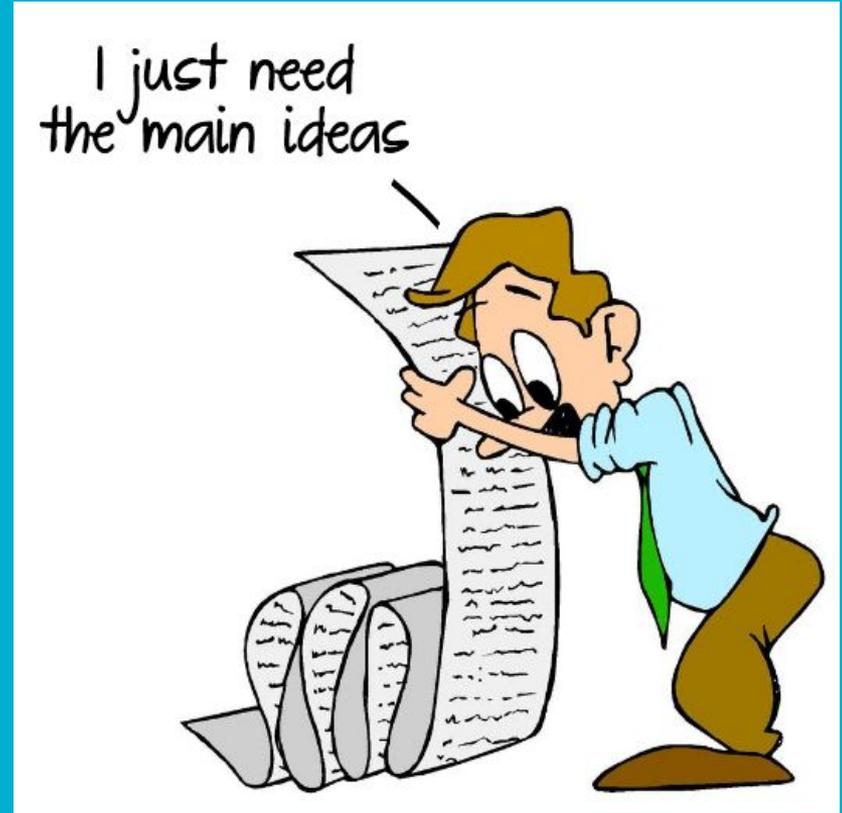


Parts of the text are copied from the internet, and certain words and phrases have been changed to make the passages sound different.

When to Summarize

Think about how much of the detail from your source is relevant to your argument.

If all your reader needs to know is the bare bones, then summarize.



Sum it up = Keep it short = Summarize

Summary moves much farther away from point-by-point translation than paraphrase.

When you summarize a passage, you need first to **absorb the meaning of the passage** and then to capture in your own words the most important elements (main points) from the original passage.

The Three Little Pigs

Hardcover:
24 pages

The Three Little Pigs

There once was a mother pig who had three little pigs and they were very poor indeed. One day, the mother pig sent the three little pigs out into the big, wide world to seek their fortunes.

The first little pig met a man carrying a big bundle of straw. "Please may I have that big bundle of straw to build myself a house?" asked the pig. The man was tired of carrying the bundle of straw, so he gladly gave it to the first little pig.

The first little pig built a house out of straw, and he lived there very happily. But

1

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along came a big bad wolf. "Little pig, little pig, let me come in!" shouted the wolf.

"No, no, not by the hair on my chinny chin chin. I'll not let you in," squeaked the first little pig.

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down," yelled the wolf. And he did. He huffed and he puffed and he blew the straw house down. The first little pig ran away as

2

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Summary of the Three Little Pigs

“The Three Little Pigs” is the story of three pigs and the Big Bad Wolf. In the beginning of the story, the pigs build houses for themselves in the countryside. Because they are lazy, two of the pigs build houses out of flimsy material. The last pig is smarter and builds a house of brick. The Big Bad Wolf would like to catch the pigs and eat them for dinner. He blows down the two flimsy houses and chases the pigs who live inside. Eventually, all of the pigs end up in the house of brick and set a trap for the wolf. The trap works and the pigs are not eaten.

A copy/paste is a direct quotation.



It needs to have “quotation marks” around it, with an in-text citation (Parente, 2018).

NEVER copy/paste without quotation marks and a citation. If you copy/paste any part of your work without quotations and citations, it is CHEATING!

No — Excuses!

But...it was an accident!

Deliberate Plagiarism

- Rewriting from books or articles
- copying & pasting from web pages and online sources to create a **patchwork** writing
- buying, downloading, or borrowing a paper



Accidental Plagiarism

- not knowing when & how to cite
- not knowing how to paraphrase or summarize
- not knowing what “common knowledge” is
- recycling an old paper

In education, it does not matter if plagiarism was intentional or not. The consequences are usually the same.

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**Reminder:
Don't be a Clone!**

Clone



Don't Do It.

**Direct copy and
paste from the
internet.
Submitting
another's work,
word-for-word, as
your own.**