

Developing paraphrasing skills

What is paraphrasing?

Paraphrasing is an important aspect of academic writing. Effective paraphrasing involves expressing another author's ideas into your own words, without losing the intended meaning of the original text. When paraphrasing you must still acknowledge the original author in your citation.

Why is paraphrasing important?

- It helps you to demonstrate your understanding of the original source and how it relates to key concepts within your discipline.
- It assists with making your writing read more clearly and smoothly, as paraphrased text is more in keeping with your own writing style and voice.
- It helps you avoid plagiarism, by not including information from sources word for word.

How can you paraphrase more effectively?

- It is important when paraphrasing to do more than use synonyms to replace some words of the original text.
- Make sure you remember to cite the original source.
- Be careful not to use wording and structure that is too similar to the original as this could result in plagiarism.

How do I use paraphrasing in my assignments?

1. Read the text you want to paraphrase carefully. Try not to focus on individual sentences, instead read to comprehend the main idea. This may mean you need to read the text several times to fully understand it. Check the meaning of any words if you are unsure for an accurate understanding of the text.
2. Make a list of the key words that you think are important to keep in your paraphrased text to maintain the original text's meaning.
3. Without looking at the original text, use these key words as the basis of your first paraphrase draft. Don't be afraid to use synonyms and change the overall structure of the paragraph.
4. Compare your draft with the original. Check that the meaning has been retained but that the paraphrased sentences are significantly different in structure from the original.
5. Edit your paraphrased text as needed. Once you are satisfied with the result, include the citation. Be aware that depending on how you restructured the text, you may now need to include the citation in more than one place.

Consider your language choices when paraphrasing to create variety.

For example:

- According to Charles (2024)...
- Chen and Singh (2023) state...
- McGovern (2024) asserts...
- Turner (2024) examines...

Comparison between a beginner's and a more effective paraphrase

Original text	Beginner's paraphrase	More effective paraphrase
<u>Health care professionals</u> assist people often when they are at their most <u>vulnerable</u>. To provide the best care and <u>understand patients' needs</u>, health care workers must demonstrate <u>good communication skills</u>. This includes developing <u>patient trust</u> and providing <u>empathy</u> to effectively work with <u>patients experiencing a variety of situations including trauma or violence, physical or mental illness or substance abuse</u> (French & Saunders, 2018).	Health care <u>sector workers</u> are often responsible for vulnerable patients. To <u>understand patients and deliver good service</u>, they need to be <u>excellent communicators</u>. They must establish <u>patient rapport and show empathy</u> if they are to successfully care for patients from a <u>variety of backgrounds and with different medical, psychological and social needs</u> (French & Saunders, 2018).	Empathetic <u>communication</u> <u>is a vital skill</u> for <u>health care workers</u>. Professionals in these fields are often responsible for <u>patients with complex medical, psychological and social needs</u> (French & Saunders, 2018). Empathetic <u>communication</u> assists also in <u>building rapport and</u> gaining the <u>necessary trust</u> to <u>care</u> for <u>vulnerable patients</u> by providing <u>appropriate supportive care</u> (French & Saunders, 2018).
<i>In the original text, key words have been underlined and the text has been colour coded to demonstrate the structure of the paragraph.</i>	<i>This is a poor example of paraphrasing. Some synonyms have been used and the order of a few words changed within the sentences, however the colours of the sentences indicate that the paragraph follows the same structure as the original text. Although the text is all from the one original source, the use of only one citation at the end does not make this clear to the reader.</i>	<i>This example demonstrates a better quality paraphrase. The author has demonstrated more understanding of the overall concept in the original text by using the keywords as the basis to reconstruct the paragraph. Note how the blocks of colour have been broken demonstrating how much the structure has changed from the original.</i>

Choose from these lists to improve your writing flow when paraphrasing

Transition (linking) Words and Phrases					
For continuing an idea	For providing a contrasting view	For showing cause and effect	For showing sequence	For concluding	For restating a point or giving examples
Additionally... In addition... Moreover... Because Consequently... Clearly, then... Furthermore... In the same way... Continuing this idea... Also... Pursuing this further...	In contrast to these... Unlike the previous example... Despite these findings... However... Contrary to these findings... In opposition to... Nevertheless...	Following... In response to... Therefore... As a result of... For this reason... The result... Thus... Due to this... Consequently... The reaction...	The first [concept/aspect]... The second [concept/aspect]... Firstly, Secondly, Finally After...Afterwards... As soon as... In the first place... Later... Meanwhile... Next...	Therefore... This..... Hence... In final analysis In conclusion... In final consideration... Indeed...	In other words... Specifically... For instance... For example... One such occurrence... This is demonstrated by To illustrate... Also... To demonstrate... This is supported by...

Choose words from this table to create variety when introducing paraphrased text

Adding paraphrased or quoted information		Adding extra sources to agree with existing evidence	Adding extra sources to challenge existing evidence	
Argues Articulates Asserts Claims Concludes Comments Describes Demonstrates Examines	Explains Indicates Observes Outlines Predicts Reasons Research Reports States	Affirms Corroborates Supports Substantiates Validates Verifies	Argues Challenges Contradicts Contrasts Debates Disputes Doubts	Refutes Rejects Opposes Questions

Further support

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