



APSU Writing Center

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing or Summarizing Quotes or Printed Material

Resource: *The LB Brief Handbook*, 5th edition

What paraphrasing is

- Research, term, literary, history, science, and all other types of formal papers require the use of written material that others have written. Paraphrasing is taking someone's quote and/or written material and rewriting in one's own words. The author's original meaning does not change, but the writer interprets what has been written and writes the information in accordance to his or her own understanding and perception.

What paraphrasing is not

- Rearranging the author's words or replacing a word in places of an original source is NOT paraphrasing. This process of changing or rearranging words is a form of plagiarism.

Example of a direct quote and its matching paraphrase

- Consider the following example of information that is copied from an internet source about Michelangelo:
 - “Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (March 6, 1475 – February 18, 1564), commonly known as Michelangelo, was an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, poet, and engineer. Despite making few forays beyond the arts, his versatility in the disciplines he took up was of such a high order that he is often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man, along with his rival and fellow Italian Leonardo da Vinci.” (*source should be cited in accordance to the formatting style of the assignment*)
- Instead of directly quoting the entire passage in a research paper, the writer can simply **paraphrase** as in the following example:
 - Michelangelo, an Italian painter and sculptor during the Renaissance period, was also a prominent poet, architect and engineer whose vast talents, skills, and artistry established precedence for future artists; therefore, he, as well as rival Leonardo da Vinci, can be thought of as the Renaissance man. (*source should be cited in accordance to the formatting style of the assignment*)



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- In addition, paraphrasing portions of material can be paired with direct quotes so that all of it is not directly quoted as one long passage. For example, note the above quoted passage followed by the below paraphrased part:
 - Michelangelo, an Italian painter and sculptor in the Renaissance period, was also a prominent architect and engineer whose talents, skills, and artistry established precedence for future artists; therefore, he is “**often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man**” (*source should be cited in accordance to the formatting style of the assignment*)
 - Note that the bold-faced portion of the paraphrase is enclosed within quotation marks. This portion is directly quoted and its source is cited directly after the quote according to MLA style. Failure to note the source constitutes plagiarism.

Paraphrasing: In-depth

This article is directly copied from the internet about paraphrasing, using one’s own ideas, and citing sources:

- “It’s a great idea, but the essay was written in 1910, so it’s expressed in language that’s a little old-fashioned. Or it’s a brilliant thought, but you just wouldn’t say it that way – it’s very technical and wouldn’t fit into the flow of your paper. How do you include references to ideas expressed by others without using direct quotations? Paraphrase – and include a full citation.
 - A paraphrase of a sentence in an article will usually be about the same length as the original sentence – **just in your own words.**
 - As with quotations, **paraphrases should be used sparingly – a paper should be a balance between thoughts of other scholars and your original ideas.**
 - “A paper composed mostly or entirely of paraphrases from other authors is very likely to be described as ‘patchworking.’ Even if you have cited every paraphrase correctly, you’ve forgotten to include your own analysis!”



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Below is paraphrasing of the article:

- Sometimes a writer must paraphrase portions of written material that are old, outdated, long, or difficult to understand. Instead of using long, direct quotes, the writer simply rewords the complex material in his own language. The paraphrased portion “will usually be about the same length as the original sentence,” but will be in the writer’s “own words” (*source should be cited in accordance to the formatting style of the assignment.*) Although citing paraphrased portions is just as important as documenting direct quotes, the writer must not compose his paper “mostly or entirely of paraphrases” because the finished product will appear “as ‘patchworking,’” or the fitting of other people’s ideas together as though they are puzzle pieces. Therefore, the paper must provide a balance of the writer’s own ideas with the ideas of others, so that the latter supports the former, not the other way around (*source should be cited in accordance to the formatting style of the assignment.*)

What summarizing is

- Summarizing original sources is similar to the process of paraphrasing, except the original idea is condensed into a sentence or more in the writer’s own words.
- The *LB Brief Handbook* teaches that summarizing “is most useful when you want to record the gist of an author’s idea without the background or supporting evidence.”
- **Original source:**
 - “Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (March 6, 1475 – February 18, 1564), commonly known as Michelangelo, was an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, poet, and engineer. Despite making few forays beyond the arts, his versatility in the disciplines he took up was of such a high order that he is often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man, along with his rival and fellow Italian Leonardo da Vinci.” (*source is cited in accordance to the formatting style of the assignment.*)
- **Summarized:**
 - Michelangelo was an Italian painter and sculptor during the Renaissance period. His vast talents, skills, and artistry established precedence for future artists, which is why he is thought of as the Renaissance man.