Secrets to Avoiding Plagiarism: Paraphrasing

Wednesday, March 18 @ 8 pm ET

Presenter – Molly Starkweather
Kaplan University Writing Center

Please click here to view this recorded workshop: http://bit.ly/18JnDoS
Defining Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is harvesting the main idea of a passage to use in your words to support your claims, while still giving credit to the source for that main idea through proper citation.
Absorbing the text - a process

When you sit down to read

1. Scan the text for organization
2. Read one section at a time
3. Pause to look up words
4. Ask questions when necessary
5. Read out loud

Before you read, prepare yourself as distraction-free an environment as possible. Over time, you might find that some background music can enhance your absorption of the text, but try to have as little as possible around you other than the text. When you get those distractions as minimized as possible, get in a comfortable reading stance and scan the text for its organization, then read each section of the text, one at a time. As you’re reading, make sure to pause to let yourself look up words and ask questions when necessary. Finally, a good way to stay on track and engage your brain fully while reading is to read out loud.
Reading an online text as opposed to a print book has its benefits and its drawbacks. One temptation when reading a text online is just to search and find the key terms you need to look up for an assignment. The goal of just searching for the right section or sentence in a reading is to do well on just that one assignment. Unfortunately, without really absorbing the text, you miss out on the power of the educational experience that begins with reading carefully and continues with discussing and then finally incorporating the ideas from your reading into your own understanding of the course subject. Think of having a reading as like having an all-access pass to a gym. If you only go in and look around very quickly, you aren’t really getting the benefit of the gym, right? A good gym has equipment to use and people to talk to about using that equipment. Here at Kaplan we have great texts for you to read, and then we facilitate the kind of community where you can talk about how to use what you have read to improve your education and career. So follow our tip on online texts and read thoroughly. Make sure to follow the five steps we outlined for absorbing the text. Also, if you look up an online text to read as part of a research paper, make sure to evaluate the credibility of sources you find. The KU Library is a great place to get help.
How should you paraphrase?

1. Read source several times to understand meaning
2. Write down meaning in notes and include citation
3. Compare wording and meaning from original to your paraphrase

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How should you cite a paraphrase?

Citations point the way to the source
- In-text citations → Full citations

Citation for a paraphrase
- No signal phrase- A recent study argues for stronger punishments for copyright infringement (Johnson & Filling, 2009).
Paraphrasing Example

Seon’s thesis statement is: “Standardized tests do not measure writing skills as well as portfolios of student writing.”

Her source, a 2014 study by Wahlberg, says “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (p. 152).
First Attempt Paraphrase

- “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (Wahlberg, 2014, p. 152).

- 57% of teachers showed better assessment of the writing done by students when using portfolios instead of timed exams.

First Attempt Paraphrase

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Analyzing First Attempt

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Changing every few words is not effective enough. It is more effective to change words and syntax when paraphrasing source material.
Attempting Paraphrase Together

Original: “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (Wahlberg, 2014, p. 152).

What is the main idea from this information?
What would you emphasize if you were using this information to talk about research projects vs. tests and which is better?
How would you use your own writing voice/style?
Let’s attempt to paraphrase together in chat.

Attempting Paraphrase Together

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What is the main idea from this information?
What would you emphasize if you were using this information to talk about research projects vs. tests and which is better?
How would you use your own writing voice/style?
Let’s attempt to paraphrase together in chat.
Second Attempt Paraphrasing

Original: “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (Wahlberg, 2014, p. 152).

Paraphrase: The majority of the instructors in Wahlberg’s (2014) study found higher quality assessment in a culmination of student writing over a term, not a snapshot of student writing in a timed exam.

- Emphasizes how long the assignment takes to complete.
Additional Resources

- [Basic Citation Guidelines](#)
- Workshop archives
  - [Integrating Sources into Your Writing](#)
  - [Writing with Ease: Paraphrase and Summary](#)
- [Video Tutorial on Paraphrasing](#)
Connect with the KUWC's new public webpage. You can actually Google and find this page. This is also a great way for you to stay connected to the KUWC through Facebook and Twitter. Many of our resources are here as well.
The best time to do a paper review in the Kaplan University Writing Center is after you have written your first draft. When you come to us early, we can help you the most by helping you with the structure of your paper. Many students send papers at the last minute because they want us to simply proofread their paper. However, KUWC writing tutors do not simply proofread the paper for you; we want to help you learn to write and proofread your own papers. You can submit a first draft, and then submit a later draft if you need further help on an assignment.

If you need help before you write the first draft, you can use live tutoring. During live tutoring, you can ask questions and brainstorm with a tutor. Live tutors can help you with other stages in the paper writing process as well. Come visit us. We can be found under the My Studies tab, then under Academic Support Center.
On the main Academic Support Center page, you will see the Writing Center links. These include Live Tutoring, Paper Review Service, the Writing Reference Library, Citation Guidelines, Workshops, English Language Learner, and Fundamental writing help. Notice, you can access the Kaplan Guide to Successful Writing on the right hand side in both print and audio form. Come visit us.
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