

# Paraphrasing Skills

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## ***What is paraphrasing?***

### **Restating others' ideas in your own words and style**

- Use some of the author's key terms.
- Use different vocabulary and sentence structure.
- Do not change the meaning.
- How is it different from summarizing?
- Why is it important to learn?

## ***How do I paraphrase?***

1. Select a short passage that supports an idea in your paper.
2. Read the passage carefully to fully understand it.
3. Take notes about the main idea and supporting points.
4. Using only your notes, write a paraphrase.
5. Reread the original source and compare it to your paraphrase. Do you need to revise?
6. Add in-text citation.

## ***Some Power Techniques for Paraphrasing!***

An effective paraphrase includes **MORE THAN ONE** of these techniques.

### **1. Change a word form from one part of speech to another.**

Original: *Something similar may be going on as diagnoses of depression and other disorders proliferate,...*

Paraphrase: *The proliferation of diagnoses related to ....*

### **2. Use synonyms.**

Original: *Mental illness is real and can be life-threatening.*

Paraphrase: *Diseases of the mind are not to be considered lightly as they could ultimately result in death.*

### **3. Change numbers and percentages to different forms.**

Original: *...the 20 percent of all twenty-six-year-olds who live with their parents – you read right, one-fifth, typically rent-free or heavily subsidized – don't want to go.*

Paraphrase: *In general, one out of five people over age twenty-five is comfortable living at home with his or her parents.*

**4. Change word order.**

Original: *How do we decide what needs fixing, and who should decide? These are not simple matters.*

Paraphrase: *It is not easy to determine what behavior to ameliorate and who the primary decision maker should be.*

**5. Use different definition structures.**

Original: *Yet for all the noise we continue to hear about, say, Ritalin, for children with attention deficit disorders and related learning or behavior problems...*

Paraphrase: *Ritalin is used for a variety of learning and behavior problems in children, and it is often....*

**6. Use different attribution signals.**

Original: *Aldous Huxley predicted it in 1932, in his Utopian novel Brave New World.*

Paraphrase: *In his 1932 fictitious story about a Utopia, Brave New World, Aldous Huxley foresaw....*

**7. Change the sentence structure, and use different connecting words.**

Original: *If we can really smooth our rough edges by popping a pill, why not make life pleasanter for our loved ones and associates by popping a pill?*

Paraphrase: *We can make the lives of people around us as comfortable as our own by medication.*

**8. Do not change key terms or proper nouns.**

Original: *Others wonder if the frequency of ADD and ADHD diagnoses says more about the state of schools....*

Paraphrase: *Could the increasing number of ADD and ADHD cases be attributed to...?*

**9. Consider summarizing some of the detail and/or examples.**

Original: *It is hard to pick up a magazine these days without finding an article attacking or defending some pharmaceutical remedy for syndromes of mood or behavior.*

Paraphrase: *Advertisements for mood- and behavior-altering medicine are prevalent nowadays.*