

PARAPHRASING

Paraphrases use the author's idea, yet the idea is put into your own words.

Generally, authors use paraphrases to help create a more seamless use of language in their essays.

Consider this esoteric analogy: If the rhythmic flow of the writing is like a river, then a strange quote might be like a rock (obstructing the rhythmic flow). In this case, a paraphrase may be used to help the flow. In a sense, a paraphrase is like shaving or recreating the rock to allow water to flow much more easily through or around....

Paraphrases generally use new words and/or new word order to present the author's idea.

When paraphrasing, you can:

- +Add words
- +Cut/Omit words
- +Change words
- +Use synonyms or substitutions for words
- +Invert or reverse the order of sentences

In addition, you can:

- +Lengthen a word, a set of words, or a sentence.
- +Shorten a word, a set of words, or a sentence.
- +Transpose a word, a set of words, or a sentence (that means to change the words into another part of speech).
- +Place a word, a set of words, or a sentence into another style of writing, talking, or way of thinking.

And, so forth....

However, the most important task to accomplish with a paraphrase is *to preserve the original message and the intended meaning of the author.*

EX:

Example (Original Words) – Excerpt from Gloria Anzaldua's Borderlands

"Borders are set up to define the places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish us from them. A border is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition" (Parenthetical Citation).

Paraphrase

Borders are put in place to define territory both safe and unsafe. They are a dividing line. Borderlands are vague and undetermined places which stem from the emotional residue of unnatural boundaries; they are in transition. (Parenthetical Citation).

CAUTION:

WE DO NOT ADVISE PLACING TOO MANY PARAPHRASES TOGETHER. THIS ACT IS CONSIDERED BY MANY ACADEMICS TO BE A VERY SUBTLE FORM OF PLAGIARISM. IF YOU USE PARAPHRASES REGULARLY, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE COMMENTARY FROM YOUR OWN POINT OF VIEW TO AGREE/DISAGREE/SUMMARIZE THE INFORMATION.