

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

MSVU International Education Centre

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# Reminder

Today's session:  
is not recorded

PPT will be posted to  
[www.msvu.ca/international](http://www.msvu.ca/international)



# Presenter



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# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

Why do we paraphrase?



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

**We paraphrase to:**

- avoid plagiarism
- avoid including too many direct quotes in our academic writing
- demonstrate to our professors we understand the original content enough to rewrite it in our own words



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

Steps to quality paraphrasing:

## Paraphrasing

1. Understand the original text fully
2. Rewrite the ideas using your own words and sentence structure (grammar)
3. Keep the original meaning
4. Use correct citation format

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategies to paraphrase

Be sure to combine several of these strategies in one paraphrase!



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 1: Synonyms





# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 1: Synonyms

Rewriting a sentence or phrase using new words or phrases.

Original: “More than half of the women who attended the one-day meeting were in business with their spouses” (Bowes Cashen, 2021, p. 41).

Paraphrase: **The majority** of the women who **went to** the one-day meeting were in business with their **life partners** (Bowes Cashen, 2021).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and use of “ ”\*)



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 1: Synonyms - Now you try!

Rewriting a sentence or phrase using new words or phrases.

Original: “Although the coach’s strategy was a little dangerous, the team was successful” (Jones, 2020, p. 220).

Paraphrase: **Even though** the coach’s **plan** was **risky**, the team was successful (Jones, 2020).

Original: “Two students were kicked out of school because of the no fighting rule” (Currie, 2019, p. 31).

Paraphrase: Two students were **expelled** from school **due to the** no fighting **policy** (Currie, 2019).

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ ”\*)

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

**Strategy 2: Change the Verb, Adjective, or Noun to Negative/Positive**



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 2: Change the Verb, Adjective, or Noun to Negative/Positive

Find the verb, adjective, or noun in each sentence that carries the emphasis of meaning in the sentence. Then rewrite the sentence using the negative/or sometimes positive form of a word with the opposite meaning.

Original: “Take slow deep breaths to relax” (Smith, 2001, p.1).

Paraphrase: **Do not** take **fast shallow** breaths to relax (Smith, 2001).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ ”\*)



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

**Strategy 2: Change the Verb, Adjective, or Noun to Negative/Positive  
- Now you try!**

Original: “South Korea is a small country compared to Canada”  
(Brock, 2001, p.1).

Paraphrase: South Korea is **not a large** country compared to Canada  
(Brock, 2001).

Original: “Most researchers are proud of their work” (Avery, 2018,  
p. 76).

Paraphrase: Most researchers are **not ashamed** of their work  
(Avery, 2018).

(\*these examples have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ ”\*)



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 3: Switching Active/Passive Verb Tenses



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 3: Switching Active/Passive Verb Tenses

Rewrite a passage changing the verb from Active to Passive or Passive to Active

Example: Active- “A tornado destroyed **the house**” (Elm, 2020, p.6).

Passive - **The house was destroyed** by a tornado (Elm, 2020).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

Example: Active - “The doctor had treated **hundreds of patients** before he received his medical license” (Mason, 2008, p. 76).

Passive – **Hundreds of patients were treated** by the doctor before he received his medical license (Mason, 2008).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ ”\*)

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 3: Switching Active/Passive Verb Tenses – Now You Try!

Rewrite a passage changing the verb from Active to Passive or Passive to Active

Original: “We all knew the team would finish the project on time”  
(Silver, 2005, p.354).

Paraphrase: We all knew **the project would be finished** by the team  
on time(Silver, 2005).

Original: “A student was being tutored by their professor when the  
fire alarm sounded” (Crowell, 2016, p. 997).

Paraphrase: **The professor was tutoring** a student when the fire  
alarm sounded (Crowell, 2016).

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ “\* )



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 4: Change Nouns to Verbs or Verbs to Nouns



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 4: Change Nouns to Verbs or Verbs to Nouns

Change the Noun into a Verb or the Verb to a Noun, then rewrite the sentence around it.

### Noun to Verb:

Original: “You have to give us your **decision** by tomorrow”  
(Jacques, 2021, p. 22).

Paraphrase: You have **to decide** by tomorrow (Jacques, 2021).  
(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

### Verb to Noun:

Original: “Researchers **investigated** the issue” (James, 2011, p.87).  
Paraphrase: Researchers conducted **an investigation** into the issue  
(James, 2011, p. 87).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ “\*)



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 4: Change Nouns to Verbs or Verbs to Nouns – Now You Try!

Change the Noun into a Verb or the Verb to a Noun, then rewrite the sentence around it.

Original: “We did a **review** of the company’s annual reports”  
(Jacques, 2021, p. 22).

Paraphrase: We **reviewed** the company’s annual reports (Jacques, 2021).  
(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

Original: “This essay **analyzes** climate change and describes a potential solution” (Bowes, 2015, p. 87).

Paraphrase: This essay gives **an analysis** of the problem of climate change and describes a potential solution (Bowes, 2015).  
(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)  
(\*note the different citations and the use of “ “\*)

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 5: Paraphrase with Conjunctions (combining phrases)



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 5: Paraphrase with Conjunctions (combining phrases)

Combine two sentences into one sentence using **Coordinating Conjunctions** and **Subordinating Conjunctions**.

Coordinating Conjunctions: FANBOYS: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*

Subordinating Conjunctions: *after, although, because, before, since, unless, while*

### Combining Phrases using Coordinating Conjunctions:

Original: “Jennifer excelled at science. Her sister struggled with mathematics” (Cashen, 2017, p. 43).

Paraphrase: Jennifer excelled at science, **but** her sister struggled with mathematics (Cashen, 2017).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

### Combining Phrases using Subordinating Conjunctions:

Original: “Some university classes are challenging. Other classes are boring” (Avery, 2021, p. 46).

Paraphrase: Some university classes are challenging **while** others are boring (Avery, 2021).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)



(\*note the different citations and the use of “ “\*)

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 5: Paraphrase with Conjunctions (combining phrases)

### Now You Try!

Combine two sentences into one sentence using **Coordinating Conjunctions** and **Subordinating Conjunctions**.

Coordinating Conjunctions: FANBOYS: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*

Subordinating Conjunctions: *after, although, because, before, since, unless, while*

### Combining Phrases using Coordinating Conjunctions:

Original: “I really dislike that teacher. I still want to take her class”(Smith,2016, p. 8).

Paraphrase: I really dislike that teacher, **but** I still want to take her class (Smith, 2016).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

### Combining Phrases using Subordinating Conjunctions:

Original: “My pet needs a bath. My pet has fleas” (Cashen, 2015, p. 2).

Paraphrase: My pet needs a bath **because** she has fleas (Cashen, 2015).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)



(\*note the different citations and the use of “ “\*)

# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 6: Paraphrase With Word Definitions



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 6: Paraphrase With Word Definitions

Paraphrase sentences by removing words and replacing them with their definitions.

Original: “**Sellers are taking advantage** of the **significant increase** in in the housing market” (Currie,2021,p. 34).

Paraphrase: **People selling their homes** are **exploiting** the **very serious growth** in the housing market (Currie, 2021).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ ”\*)



# Paraphrasing in Academic Writing

## Strategy 6: Paraphrase With Word Definitions – Now You Try!

Paraphrase sentences by removing words and replacing them with their definitions.

Original: “**Most** economic analysts **predict** the financial crisis will **persist in the new year**” (Jacques, 2009, p. 8).

Paraphrase: **The majority of** economic analysts **believe** that the financial crisis will **continue into next year** (Jacques, 2009).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

Original “Student-athlete award **winners were selected based on** exceptional performance to the sport and their team” (Lumpston, 2021, p.45).

Paraphrase: Student-athlete award **recipients were chosen because of** their **very impressive** performance to the sport and their team (Lumpston, 2021).

(\*these two sentences have the same meaning!)

(\*note the different citations and the use of “ “\* )



# Citing a Paraphrase in Academic Writing

## How to Cite a Paraphrase



# Citing a Paraphrase in Academic Writing

## How to cite a paraphrase:

### In-text:

- Author (last name)
- Year
- In parenthesis ( )

### Format:

- At the end of the paraphrase
  - MSVU International students are highly active students (Jones, 2021).
- Can refer to the author at the beginning of the paraphrase
  - According to Jones(2021), MSVU International students are highly active students.

### Reference List:

- Reference according to the appropriate citation style guide



# Citing a Paraphrase in Academic Writing

## To sum up

### We paraphrase to:

- avoid plagiarism
- avoid including too many direct quotes in our academic writing
- demonstrate you understand the original content enough to rewrite it in your own words

### 6 strategies for paraphrasing:

- use Synonyms
- change the Verb, Adjective, or Noun to Negative/Positive
- change Active to Passive or Passive to Active
- change Nouns to Verbs or Verbs to Nouns
- paraphrase with Conjunctions (combining phrases)
- paraphrase With Word Definitions

Use  
multiple  
strategies  
in a single  
paraphrase

### Citation:

- (author (last name) + year)
- reference list

# To Review this Presentation

[www.msvu.ca/international](http://www.msvu.ca/international)

## International Education Centre



The International Education Centre (IEC) at MSVU offers personal, academic, cultural and immigration advising to international students in Canada, as well as any student or faculty wishing to study, research or conduct projects abroad. The IEC is also home to the University's English for Academic Purposes programs.

### TRAVELING TO CANADA: COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

Information on these pages reflect the travel and quarantine regulations beginning January 15, 2022.

MSVU international students are no longer required to have their quarantine plans approved by the International Education Centre. However, you are still required to have a quarantine plan to enter Canada. Please continue to check this website as it will help you create your own quarantine plan and will prepare you for your travel to Canada.

If you need further support, please email [international@msvu.ca](mailto:international@msvu.ca).



### ONLINE SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SUMMER 2022

We gathered a number of online support webinars and workshops that will help you in your transition to Canada. The list is a combination of academic and student life support services and information. Please continue to visit this page as we are continuously adding to the list.

Click on the link above to access these resources. For more questions, email us at [international@msvu.ca](mailto:international@msvu.ca).



# Thank You!

## Questions?

<https://forms.office.com/r/XcQKCUkwAy>

