

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/international
webpage**



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 we understand the original content enough to rewrite it in your 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!)



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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).

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



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

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!)

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Strategy 2: Change the Verb, Adjective, or Noun to Negative - 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!)



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Strategy 3: Switching Active/Passive Verb Tenses



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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!)



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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
(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).



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Strategy 4: Change Nouns to Verbs or Verbs to Nouns



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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 conducted an investigation into the issue”
(James, 2011, p. 87).

Paraphrase: Researchers **investigated** the issue (James, 2011).
(*these two sentences have the same meaning!)



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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).

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).



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Strategy 5: Paraphrase with Conjunctions (combining phrases)



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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).

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, 2017).



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).

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).



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Strategy 6: Paraphrase With Word Definitions



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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 competition (Currie, 2021).

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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).

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).



Paraphrasing 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, MSVU International students are highly active students (2021).

Reference List:

- Reference according to the appropriate source format



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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
- 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

Citation:

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

