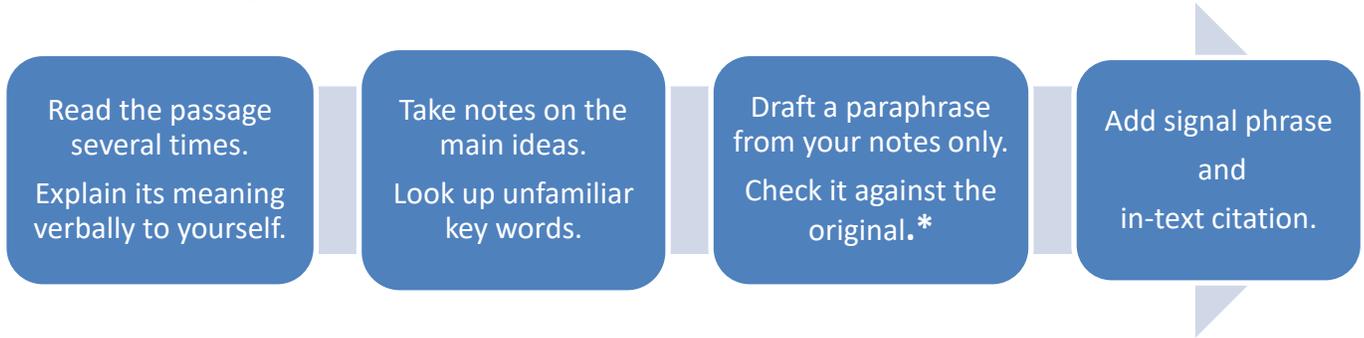


## Paraphrasing to Support Your Ideas

Using information from published articles adds credibility and evidence to your words. College-level writers are expected to PARAPHRASE more often than directly quoting full sentences from other sources.

Paraphrasing is an important way to show that you understand the source material and can integrate supportive texts into your own writing. In other words, you express ideas in your own academic voice.

When paraphrasing, follow these steps:



**\*Check your paraphrase. Does it...**

- express the same meaning as the original?
- use different words AND have different sentence structure?
- have a signal phrase and citation?

### Part 1: Recognize an effective paraphrase

Read the original sentence and decide which of the paraphrases below is GOOD, AWKWARD, TOO SIMILAR, INACCURATE, OR INCOMPLETE.

**ORIGINAL: "A powerful body of data shows that speaking more than one language arms kids with crucial real-world abilities. People who master two or more languages in childhood enjoy better cognitive development, leading to better academic performance across the board. Learning languages at a young age is also associated with better problem-solving, heightened verbal skills, and mental agility."** From Editorial: Children can, and should, learn more than one language. *Houston Chronicle* (2012, Feb 16). Retrieved from <http://www.chron.com/opinion/editorials/article/Editorial-Children-can-and-should-learn-more-3337685.php>).

- 1. As children are exposed to different languages, they gain "real-world abilities" ("Editorial").
- 2. Studies show that those who speak more than one language have more capabilities in life, in work, and in school ("Editorial").
- 3. According to research, experiencing two or more languages prepares kids to deal with issues, think in a better way, and enjoy scholarly achievement.
- 4. Being able to solve problems, express oneself verbally, and think quickly are related to learning another language in childhood ("Editorial").
- 5. Children who learn another language seem to have enhanced thinking, better speaking skills, and problem-solving abilities which contribute to higher academic achievement ("Editorial").

## Part 2: Paraphrase a passage from an article

Paraphrase these passages from an article by Ed Yong titled "The Bitter Fight Over the Benefits of Bilingualism" published in *The Atlantic* on Feb. 10, 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/02/the-battle-over-bilingualism/462114/>

**1A.** Since the 1960s, several studies have shown that [bilingualism leads to many advantages](#), beyond the obvious social benefits of being able to speak to more people. It also supposedly improves [executive function](#)—a catch-all term for advanced mental abilities that allow us to control our thoughts and behavior, such as focusing on a goal, ignoring distractions, switching attention, and planning for the future.

*Paraphrase 1A here:*

**1B.** According to [Kenneth Paap](#), a psychologist at San Francisco State University and the most prominent of the critics, bilingual advantages in executive function “either do not exist or are restricted to very specific and undetermined circumstances.” [In a recent review](#),...Paap argues that many of these problems apply to research on the bilingualism advantage. “There’s a tendency to conduct multiple, small-sample studies that are underpowered,” he says. “That increases the likelihood of false positives. The problem is compounded by confirmation biases, or motivations to report only the studies that work.”

*Paraphrase 1B here:*

**1C.** For example, one group of researchers analyzed 104 abstracts on bilingualism that were presented at scientific conferences. They found that 68 percent of abstracts that found an executive-function advantage were eventually published in journals, compared to just 29 percent that found no advantage. This publication bias, a common problem in psychology and science as a whole, means that the evidence for the phenomenon seems stronger than it actually is.

*Paraphrase 1C here:*