Paraphrasing for Academic Honesty

By Carla Mannix, Nov. 2017
Academic Honesty in the USA

Related terms
- Academic integrity
- Acknowledgement
- Cite / Citation
- Give credit
- Intellectual Property
- Signal Phrase
- Verbatim

image from http://www.sussex.ac.uk/skillshub?id=287
Show video comparing Michelle Obama and Melania Trump's speech.  
https://youtu.be/RcbiGsDMmCM

Highlight that Michelle is respected, considered successful, same position as Melania = expert
Sample prompts highlighting required use of source material.

Ask: What do these prompts have in common?
   =REFER TO TEXT, REFERENCES, include only the author’s main ideas

ASK: For you, what is the hardest part about borrowing or using words from published sources?
   Possible answers: citation, understanding main idea, knowing which sentence/phrase to use in paper, rewording,

SYNONYMS: source, material, published articles, passage, text

Optional Q: Why do college assignments want us to refer to other sources?
Critical Academic Writing and Multilingual Students

Cultural practices:
- Knowledge and words are collectively owned
- Memorization is valued
- “To define oneself in opposition to the community or to strive for originality through new words is a violation of the local ethos” (p. 151).
- Expressing own views in totalitarian/authoritarian cultures is dangerous

Education:
- Quoting shows respect
- Expressing others views shows you have “integrated into a scholarly community” (p. 152).

Rhetorical/Writing Style:
- China zawen=essay
- Weaving in classic or religious texts make writing beautiful and expressive
Describe that concept applies to all forms of media.
Discuss how American colleges view published material = intellectual property

Borrowing without acknowledgement = stealing, theft

Synonyms:
Acknowledge
Give credit
Cite
Attribute

The Problem with Plagiarism

The original passage:
Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. Writing Research Papers. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

A plagiarized version:
Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

Highlight or circle words on board to show why this is considered plagiarized.
Same order
Only synonyms
Same phrases
Missing citation
(Note: Even with a citation, this would be considered plagiarized because of the other issues.)
WHY PARAPHRASE?
• To support my ideas with credible sources.
• To emphasize particular information.
• To pull essential info from a quote that is too long.
• To show that I understood the main idea in the article or the research findings.

*To personalize my essay => write in MY VOICE
Qualities of a good paraphrase

CHECKLIST

- original meaning
- signal phrase or reporting verb
- understandable words
- different structure
- citation

Give a list of reporting verbs or signal phrases
This paraphrase uses a signal phrase and simple words. It’s ok to start with simple words to capture the meaning. MEANING is most important, and then students can find more academic terms later.

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**Simple effective paraphrase:**

Lester (1976) claims that research papers should not have too many direct quotations, at most 10% of the paper. But students tend to copy too many quotes from the original sources. While taking notes, he suggests it’s better to keep direct quotations to a minimum (46-47).

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**Apply the checklist from previous slide**

- original meaning
- signal phrase or reporting verb
- understandable words
- different structure
- citation
EFFECTIVE PARAPHRASE

The original passage:
Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final research paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes.


A legitimate paraphrase:
In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).

This uses a signal phrase and simple words.
It’s ok to start with simple words to capture the meaning.
MEANING is most important, and then later find more academic terminology

Apply the checklist from previous slide
☐ original meaning
☐ signal phrase or reporting verb
☐ understandable words
☐ different structure
☐ citation
CHECKLIST FOR EFFECTIVE PARAPHRASE

DID YOU...

1. Communicate the original meaning?
2. Use different words?
3. Use different sentence structure/word order?
4. Credit the original author/source?
   a. signal phrase  b. citation

Utilize vs. use
**EFFECTIVE, TOO SIMILAR, or INACCURATE**

“Astronomers have already discovered a handful of Earthlike planets, and when you consider the number of stars out there, it’s likely that there are more. These scientific findings indicate that we are not alone in the universe.”

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<td>Astronomers have already found some planets similar to Earth, and considering how many stars there are, it’s likely that humans are not alone in the galaxy.</td>
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<td>We know we are not the only intelligent life in the universe because astronomers have already discovered planets like Earth, and many more are waiting to be discovered.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Intelligent life is likely to exist in the universe, given the large number of stars out there and the fact that scientists are discovering planets like our own.</td>
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**ASSESS**
Let’s practice once together.

**TOO SIMILAR = plagiarized**
DISTRIBUTE THE HANDOUT

REVIEW: WHY PARAPHRASE?
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• To emphasize particular information.
• To pull essential info from a quote that is too long.
• To show that I understood the main idea in the article or the research findings.
*To personalize my essay => write in MY VOICE
Ask students to label the statements
References


