

PARAPHRASING

To **paraphrase** is to rewrite something taken from another source **using your own words**. When paraphrasing, you change the wording of the original source but keep the meaning the same as the original writing, which helps you avoid plagiarism.

Watch the video in the link and take notes. What are the five simple steps of paraphrasing?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiM0x0ApVL8>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

HOW TO PARAPHRASE

- Read the original text to understand it as a whole.
- Find the **KEY** content words. Be selective. Keep the technical terms.
- Use a dictionary to find synonyms or antonyms of these content words.
- Change parts of speech.
- Break up the ideas and/or combine them differently.
- Change the structure of the sentence.
- Change the voice from active to passive and vice versa.
- Change clauses to phrases and vice versa.
- Do **NOT** forget to refer to the author. (APA in-text citation)

- Do NOT add your own comments.
- Do NOT add something which is not in the original text.

A good paraphrase combines a number of strategies: the goal is to rephrase the information so that it appears in your words, not those of the author.

Example: The example below is from Kendra Cherry’s article “How People’s Prejudices Develop” (2020)

Original text¹:

“Prejudice is a baseless and often negative preconception or attitude toward members of a group. Prejudice can have a strong influence on how people behave and interact with others, particularly with those who are different from them, even unconsciously or without the person realizing they are under the influence of their internalized prejudices”.

| Keywords and their synonyms, antonyms or approximations | |
|--|-------------|
| baseless (adj) | groundless |
| preconception (n) | assumption |
| attitude (n) | belief |
| interact (v) | communicate |
| internalized (adj) | subjective |

Paraphrased version:

According to Cherry (2020), prejudices are groundless concepts and assumptions which people have against others in different groups. People are affected by prejudices when they communicate and treat other people. This can be observed more when they are with the members of distinctive

¹ Adapted from: <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-prejudice-2795476>

groups. However, they do not do this on purpose, they are not even aware that they are affected by their subjective bias.

See the changes in vocabulary:

| Original text | Paraphrased version |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| “a baseless and often negative preconception or attitude” | groundless concepts and assumptions |
| “internalized prejudices” | subjective bias. |

See the changes in grammar structure:

| Original Text | Paraphrased version |
|---|---|
| “Prejudice can have a strong influence on” (active voice) | People are affected by prejudices (passive voice) |

See the changes in organization:

| Original Text | Paraphrased version |
|---|---|
| “Prejudice can have a strong influence on how people behave and interact with others, particularly with those who are different from them, even | People are affected by prejudices when they communicate and treat other people. This can be observed more when they are |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>unconsciously or without the person realizing they are under the influence of their internalized prejudices". (one sentence supported by linkers and clauses)</p> | <p>with the members of distinctive groups. However, they do not do this on purpose, they are not even aware that they are affected by their subjective bias. (Broken into three simpler sentences)</p> |
|--|---|

See the APA in-text citation addition:

| Original Text | Paraphrased version |
|--|---|
| <p>“Prejudice is a baseless and often negative preconception or attitude toward members of a group. Prejudice can have a strong influence on how people behave and interact with others, particularly with those who are different from them, even unconsciously or without the person realizing they are under the influence of their internalized prejudices”.</p> | <p>According to Cherry (2020), prejudices are groundless concepts and assumptions which people have against others in different groups. People are affected by prejudices when they communicate and treat other people. This can be observed more when they are with the members of distinctive groups. However, they do not do this on purpose, they are not even aware that they are affected by their subjective bias. (no quotation marks, surname of the writer and the year are included)</p> |

YOUR TURN

PART 1

Paraphrase the sentences below from Adichie’s speech “Dangers of a Single Story” (2009). Do not forget to add APA in-text citation.

1. “All I had heard about them was how poor they were, so that it had become impossible for me to see them as anything else but poor”.
2. “And, as often happens in America, immigration became synonymous with Mexicans”.
3. “It is impossible to talk about the single story without talking about power”.

PART 2

Paraphrase the paragraph below from Kendra Cherry’s article “How People’s Prejudices Develop” (2020). Do not forget to add APA in-text citation.

“Stereotypes can not only lead to faulty beliefs, but they can also result in both prejudice and discrimination. According to psychologist Gordon Allport, prejudice and stereotypes emerge in part as a result of normal human thinking. In order to make sense of the world around us, it's important to sort information into mental categories”.

PART 3

Check your partner’s paraphrase and put a tick next to the points s/he has achieved. Point out the parts that can be improved. Be honest but kind. Don’t forget you do this activity to improve and grow!

1. Did your partner use a dictionary/ Thesaurus to find synonyms or antonyms of these content words?
2. Did your partner change parts of speech?

3. Did your partner break up the ideas and/or combine them differently? Does my partner's paraphrase have its own flow of organisation?
4. Did your partner change the grammatical structure of the sentences? (from active to passive, use of relative clauses etc)?
5. Did your partner refer to the author by using APA citation?
6. Is there irrelevant comments or information which is not in the original text?
7. What is your overall impression of the paraphrase? What are the strong parts of the paraphrase? What would you suggest for improvement?