

# Writing and Tutorial Center

## Paraphrasing and Quoting with Purpose

What's the difference? Where quoting uses the exact words of a text, paraphrasing uses the ideas or information without a full quote. Both are useful, so it's not that one is better than the other, rather that there's a time and place for each of them. Either way, both of them must be cited. Anytime you use ideas that are not your own, it should be clear where those ideas come from.

### PARAPHRASING

We often paraphrase sentences, or even whole paragraphs, to restate the ideas in a more concise manner. This is a kind of summarizing that can be very useful when using a source that might use complex metaphors or niche jargon. However, paraphrasing is not just about shortening the sentences. By rewording the cited material you're showing your own understanding of the original text and how it relates to your writing.

CHART

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Original</i> – The Federal Emergency Relief Association (FERA) camps, or the She-She-She Camps, were intended to do for unemployed women what Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had done for men by providing purpose and gainful employment in conservation and forestry. The FERA camps saw in total some 8,500 women pass through, but when the economic pressure began to ease, it was decided that the women's program was an unnecessary expense and subsequently closed. Conversely, the CCC remains active to this day.</p> | <p><i>Paraphrase</i> – Though the Federal Emergency Relief Association (FERA) camps were conceived with similar goals as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), but gendered bias ended the women's program (Follett 1).</p> |
| <p><i>Original</i> – The label of 'rayon' tells us very little about a fabric as the three main types, viscose, modal, and lyocell, have different textures, uses, and are not required to share what original fiber is used nor the exact process used to refine the fiber (which will drastically change how sustainable the fabric actually is).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><i>Paraphrase</i> – Calling a fabric 'rayon' conveys very little, including which variety—viscose, modal, and lyocell—and the differences in texture, application, and environmental impact (Follett 2).</p>              |

Often when quoting or paraphrasing we have to summarize aspects of the original to give context for the information being presented. Where paraphrasing allows one to get very detailed about a topic, summary briefly explains the main ideas of a passage. Summary is always shorter than the original material, and will generally not include every specific detail that builds the primary argument or narrative.

## QUOTING

We use quotations when the exact words from the source are particularly essential or the focus of your analysis. It's important to be clear when using someone else's words, and create a framework around the quotes so the relevancy is clear to your reader. Keep in mind that too many quotations distract from your own voice; try to balance and support your own analysis and ideas with outside sources.

EXAMPLE

The then new president of Transit for the MTA, Andy Byford, was interviewed by Bill Whitaker for 60 Minutes regarding his big plans for the system. He stated, "It will not be quick. It will not be cheap. And it certainly won't be easy." Today, many might call that an understatement.

EXAMPLE

Modern Art famously resists definition, but Harold Rosenberg simplifies this for us. "It is something someone has had the power to designate psychologically, aesthetically or ideologically relevant to our epoch"(Rosenberg 49). This definition allows us to focus on the problem at the center of modern art, power and who has it.

Additionally, any time a quote is over four lines it needs to be formatted into a **block quote**. MLA and Chicago styles have slightly different rules for how block quotes are formatted, but generally long quotes should be paragraphs indented separately from the rest of the text, without quotation marks, and with the appropriate citation (see MLA below).

EXAMPLE

In discussing concerns over the welfare of the disabled and elderly, it becomes prudent to consider just what we mean when we say 'caregiver.' Eva Feder Kittay's *Ethics of Care, Dependence, and Disability* gives us a place to start:

The term "care" (in English) can denote a labor, an attitude, or a virtue. As labor, it is the work of maintaining others and ourselves when we are in a condition of need... As an attitude, caring denotes a positive, affective bond and investment in another's well-being. The labor can be done without the appropriate attitude (Kittay 52).

By laying out some key points, Kittay distinguishes between 'care' as labor versus 'care' as an attitude. She explains how one can be present without the other. To give an example, consider relatives who care deeply for their disabled relatives, but lack the appropriate training to...

RESOURCES

"[Paraphrasing Examples](#)" from YourDictionary.

"[Integrating Quotes](#)" from Ursinus College.

"[Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing](#)" from Purdue OWL.