



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE**

Academic English

Section 9: Paraphrasing techniques

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Why paraphrase?

Effective paraphrasing is vital in academic writing to avoid the risk of **plagiarism**



Plagiarism

quoting directly without attribution

it constitutes academic dishonesty

it signals a lack of integrity and can ruin
your academic career

<http://www.dailywritingtips.com/the-whys-and-hows-of-paraphrasing/>



Paraphrasing and translation

unconnected natural language processing tasks

translation represents the preservation of meaning in the words of a different language

paraphrasing represents the preservation of meaning using different words in the same language

<https://www.cs.jhu.edu/~ccb/publications/callison-burch-thesis.pdf> (2015)

Rule of thumb

- Less than 10 percent of an academic paper or article should consist of direct quotations from research sources.
- In physical sciences, direct quotations are not allowed.

<http://www.dailywritingtips.com/the-whys-and-hows-of-paraphrasing/>



Eight pitfalls of paraphrasing

Forgetting to acknowledge
source or author

Adding your opinion

Misreading the original


Summarizing rather than
paraphrasing

Including too much of the
original

Substituting inappropriate
synonyms

Leaving out important
information

Expanding or narrowing
the meaning



Excerpt from original work:

An old medical maxim sums up the goals of medicine concisely, “Cure sometimes, support frequently, comfort always.” This maxim reflects the fact that disease presents in different ways, and that the appropriate medical intervention will vary according to the clinical facts of each case (Jonsen, Seigler, & Winslade, 2006, p. 15).

Plagiarized version:

There are three goals in medicine which offer clinicians the opportunity to cure sometimes, but comfort always. In fact, because diseases sometimes present with different clinical facts, medical treatment isn't always consistent.

Summary:

Treatments vary according to available clinical facts therefore one is able to offer comfort more often than cure (Jonsen, Seigler, & Winslade, 2006).

Proper Paraphrase:

Jonsen, Siegler & Winslade (2006) use the old maxim, “Cure sometimes, support frequently, comfort always,” to reflect the fact that medical intervention needs to include clinical facts as well as plans to provide palliation (Jonsen, Siegler, & Winslade, p. 15)

Paraphrasing techniques

Acknowledge sources

Changing vocabulary

- synonyms & keywords

Varied sentence patterns

- passive voice, gerund

Change order of ideas

Change word class

- Nouns to verbs
- Verbs to nouns
- Adjectives to adverbs
- Adverbs to adjectives

Break long sentences
into short ones

Making abstract ideas
more concrete



Forgetting to document

- sources
- author's position
- author's thinking



Verbs

- To introduce quotations and paraphrases

Verbs and other expressions neutral in meaning :

according to	comment	describe	note	state
acknowledge	define	discuss	point out	

Verbs that indicate the author's position on an issue:

argue	claim	emphasize	recommend	suggest
assert	defend	maintain	reject	support
challenge	doubt	put forward	refute	

Verbs that indicate what the author's thinking:

assume	consider	recognize
believe	hypothesize	think

Verbs that indicate that the author is showing something:

demonstrate	illustrate	present
explain	indicate	show

Verbs that indicate that the author is proving something:

confirm	prove	validate
establish	substantiate	verify

Verbs that indicate what the author did:

analyze	estimate	examine	investigate	study
apply	evaluate	find	observe	

Referring to sources

Recent *in vitro* studies have shown that X can ... (Patel et al., 1997; Jones et al., 1998)

Twenty cohort study analyses have examined the relationship between ...

Recent evidence suggests that ... (Smith, 1996; Jones, 1999; Johnson, 2001).

A number of authors have considered the effects of ... (Smith, 2003; Jones, 2004).

It has been demonstrated that a high intake of X results in damage to ... (Smith, 1998).

Referring to author's ideas or position

Smith (2013)	points out argues maintains claims concludes suggests	that	preventative medicine is far more cost effective, and therefore better adapted to the developing world.
Smith (2013)	argues for offers proposes suggests		an explanatory theory for each type of irrational belief.

- According to Smith (2003), preventative medicine is far more cost effective
- As noted by Smith (2003) X is far more cost effective, and therefore ...

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/referring-to-sources/>



Use synonyms & keywords

Original: *The U.S. government declared that the AIDS crisis poses a national security threat. The announcement followed an intelligence report that found high rates of HIV infection could lead to widespread political destabilization.*

Paraphrase: *The government of the United States announced that AIDS could harm the nation's security. The government warned the population after an important governmental study concluded that political problems could result from large numbers of people infected with HIV (Snell, 2005).*

Change sentence patterns

Original: *Although* only about one-tenth of the world's population lives there, sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region, accounting for 72 percent of the people infected with HIV during 2000.

Paraphrase: Approximately 10 percent of the world's population resides in sub-Saharan Africa. *However*, this area of the world has the highest percentage of AIDS-related illnesses. *In fact*, in 2000, almost three-fourths of the population had the HIV virus (Bunting, 2004).



Change word order

Original: Angier (2001) reported that *malaria kills* more than one million people *annually*, the overwhelming majority of them children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Paraphrase: *Every year*, more than a million *people are killed by malaria*, and most of the victims are children who live in sub-Saharan Africa (Angier, 2001).

Change word class

Original: *Medical professor John Swanson says that global changes are influencing the spread of disease.*

Paraphrase: *According to John Swanson, a professor of medicine, changes across the globe are causing diseases to spread (James, 2004).*



Change percentages & numbers

Original: Minority groups in the United States have been hit hardest by the epidemic. African Americans, who make up *13 percent of the U.S. population*, accounted for *46 percent* of the AIDS cases diagnosed in 1998.

Paraphrase: The AIDS epidemic has mostly affected minorities in the United States. For example, in 1998, *less than 15 percent* of the total population was African, but *almost half* of the people diagnosed with AIDS in the United States that year were African American (Jenson, 2000).



Careful note-taking

- Jot down key ideas
- Summarize main concepts without looking at the original
- Acknowledge sources



Rubric

- ❑ In-text reference added/ author acknowledged
- ❑ Sentence structure changed
- ❑ Own words/ style used
- ❑ No missing ideas from the original
- ❑ No new ideas added

References

- http://www.awc.metu.edu.tr/handouts/Verbs_to_Introduce_Paraphrases_and_Quotations.pdf
- <http://www.usca.edu/asc/pdf/writing%20room/paraphrasing.pdf>
- <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/sites/default/files/12333/techniquesforparaphrasing.pdf>
- <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/referring-to-sources/>
- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/02/>
- <http://www.nova.edu/chcs/studentaffairs/success/forms/apa-how-to-paraphrase.pdf>

End of Section



Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση
Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο



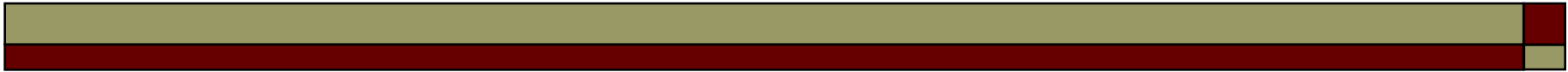
Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



Financing

- The present educational material has been developed as part of the educational work of the instructor.
- The project “Open Academic Courses of the University of Crete” has only financed the reform of the educational material.
- The project is implemented under the operational program “Education and Lifelong Learning” and funded by the European Union (European Social Fund) and National Resources.





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<https://opencourses.uoc.gr/courses/course/view.php?id=349>.



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