



Paraphrasing FAQ

Can I just change a few words—you know, the big ones that are tricky?	No. Paraphrasing is expressing an author's idea in one's own words and voice. An effective paraphrase uses all new vocabulary, sentence structure, and paragraph structure. →If you keep vocabulary or sentence/paragraph structure, it's considered plagiarism.
What if I find a synonym for each and every word?	
Do I put a paraphrase in quotes?	No. Then it would be a quote. However, you may want to quote a few words or phrases within your paraphrase, particularly if there's original language that has no substitute.
If the original uses a list or "First...Second...Third" can I keep that structure?	No. When paraphrasing, you must not copy the original author's vocabulary, sentence structure, or even paragraph structure. Mimicking another author's structure is a subtle form of plagiarism. You must ask yourself, <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does this paragraph follow the same logical flow as the original?2. Would the outline of my argument look the same as the original author's outline?
Do I need to include an in-text citation for a paraphrase?	Yes. Along with summaries and quotes, paraphrases <i>always</i> require citations, BOTH in the text (whether in parentheses or as footnotes/endnotes) and at the end.
Do I need to include a bibliographic citation on the Works Cited, Bibliography, or References page?	

So what do I do?

Remember, your word choice, sentence structure, and paragraph structure should be original, even though you're borrowing another author's *idea*.

- Read the sentence/idea you will paraphrase.
- Take a minute to think about what the sentence means—get the gist of the idea.
- Close the book, turn the article over, etc.
- State the idea in your own words without looking at the original.
- Revise as needed, as many times as it takes to make it your expression of the author's idea.
- Don't forget to include a citation (in-text and in the bibliography).