

Paraphrasing

Why do it?

Ownership and Fluency

Writing a Good Paraphrase

- A paraphrase is a full presentation of the original passage told through your writing style. (A **summary** is concise & comprehensive; an **outline** lists the main ideas.)
- The final paraphrase should not be just a substitution of synonyms for key words.
- A good paraphrase flows into your writing and demonstrates that you understand the idea of the original sentence.
- It's important to introduce the source at the beginning and use a parenthetical at the end to clarify where the paraphrase begins and ends.

Paraphrasing in Three Steps

1. Look up unfamiliar words
2. Translate without shortening or changing the original.
Don't guess. Don't project.
3. Move from the translation to “free paraphrase” so that the idea reflects your own writing style avoiding even a phrase of the original (3 words).

Original:

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief.

1. **Look up words:** impediments—hindrances; enterprises—endeavors
2. **Translate:** He who has a wife and children has exchanged being a prisoner to being rich; for family are hindrances to important endeavors that could be for good or for bad.
3. **Free to be me Paraphrase:** Married men with children have limitations; having a family means men are hindered from embarking on any important undertaking, good or bad.

Integrating the paraphrase may change it even more.

- Married men with children have limitations; having a family means men are hindered from embarking on any important undertaking, good or bad.

In Bacon's essay "Of Marriage and Single Life," he suggests that the responsibility of a wife and children prevents a man from taking risks with his money, time, and energy (257).

Why is it important to have the author's name in the sentence when paraphrasing?

Practicing the 3 Step Process

- According to Edward Pavlic, “Baldwin’s unnamed narrator describes the connection between blues excavations and the existential imperatives behind the improvisational search to make it sound new” (78).
- **Step 1: Look up words.**
Excavations—things that have been unearthed
Existential—grounded in the experience of existence
Imperatives—necessities
Improvisational—spur of the moment
- **Step 2: Translate.**
The narrator discovers the connection between jazz unearthing and the necessity of being grounded in the experience of existence behind the spur of the moment search to make jazz sound new.
- **Step 3: Free to be me Paraphrase**