

Module 5

AVOIDING COPY/PASTE, WORD-SWITCH, METAPHOR, AND IDEA PLAGIARISM. OR, “HOW TO PARAPHRASE!”



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OVERVIEW:

In this module you will explore ways to reference information and avoid plagiarism by completing 3 brief writing exercises. These exercises are based on lesson plans developed by Clayton DeKorne and Javaid Khan of the [The New York Times Learning Network](#) and Dana Lynn Driscoll of [The Owl at Purdue Teaching Resources](#).

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. Differentiate between “plagiarizing” and “paraphrasing.”
2. Learn the rise of the Internet plagiarism on college campuses by reading the article “A Campus Fad That’s Being Copied: Internet Plagiarism.”
3. Summarize the article and analyze the summary for plagiarism.
4. Correct the summary by inserting properly attributed quotations and paraphrases.
5. Take a quiz to test knowledge on paraphrasing.

INTRODUCTION:

38% of students admit to “cut-and-paste” plagiarism involving the Internet (Rimer, 2003). That means 62% of students are writing original material and/or paraphrasing the works of other writers.

What does it mean to paraphrase?

Watch the 8-minute tutorial “[Stop, thief! Avoiding Plagiarism by Paraphrasing](#)” created by Emily Nimsakont (2008).

A paraphrase is (Driscoll, 2007):

- *your own rendition of essential information and ideas expressed by someone else, presented in a new form.*
- *one legitimate way (when accompanied by accurate documentation) to borrow from a source.*
- *a more detailed restatement than a summary, which focuses concisely on a single main idea. (¶ 2)*

Examples

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).

Exercise #1:

This lesson is designed to help you learn how to avoid plagiarism by accurately quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing source material.

Directions:

The exercises in this module require writing, so you need to open a blank word document, or get a pen/pencil and paper to complete these exercises.

1. Complete the paraphrasing exercise available at [The OWL at Purdue](#).
2. Compare your paraphrases with those provided at [Possible Answers](#).

Exercise #2:

1. Read the New York Times article [“A Campus Fad That’s Being Copied: Internet Plagiarism”](#)
2. Try not to look back at the original New York Times article while you take 10 minutes or less to write a one-paragraph summary.
3. Now, rewrite your summary; but, this time you may look at the original New York Times article in order to insert at least one quote and one paraphrase into your summary.
4. Compare the differences between your two summaries and answer the following questions:
 - a. Did you use any phrases, statistics or quotes from the article? If so, did you use quotation marks, proper paraphrasing, citations and references?
 - b. Do any key phrases bear a close rendering to the original? If so, without looking at the phrase, rewrite what the author meant in your own words. Check for accuracy, add the revision and make sure that you credit the author.

Exercise #3:

1. Write two paragraphs on the subject of “Internet Plagiarism” using the above New York Times article and at least one other information source for references. Remember, there are three ways to reference source material: by quoting, by paraphrasing, and by summarizing.
2. Take the Quiz.

References

- DeKorne, C. & Khan, J. (2003). Please no Posers: Learning to paraphrase without plagiarism. *The New York Times Learning Network Lesson Plan*. Retrieved from <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2003/09/04/please-no-posers/>
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