Paraphrasing

= Indirect quotation
= To rewrite someone else's thoughts and ideas in your own words
When you paraphrase, make sure to

- Rewrite completely in your own words (do not just exchange a few of the words)
- Cite your source!
You will find some examples of paraphrasing on the following slides. In each case, the best version of the paraphrase is marked in green.
You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else's words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow.

(Booth, Colomb, and Williams, 1995, p. 167)

Paraphrase 1: It is plagiarism, intentional or not, to use someone else's ideas or words without giving credit to that person. Even if you give credit to the author, it is plagiarism to use his exact words without quotation marks or block indentation. It is also plagiarism to use words so close to the original that if someone put your work next to it, it would be clear that you couldn't have written what you did unless you had the original there with you.

(Booth, Colomb, and Williams, 1995, p. 167)

Paraphrase 2: Booth et al. (1995) warn against three types of plagiarism: 1) using the "words or ideas" of a source without identifying it; 2) giving credit to a source but copying its language, in whole or in part, without benefit of quotation marks; or 3) echoing the sentence structure and phrasing of the original so closely that anyone can see the writer was depending on it heavily as he wrote (167).

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(Source: *The Craft of Research*: Booth, Colomb, & Williams, 1995, p. 167)

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Orwell (1961) was concerned with what he considered a dangerous link between careless language use, fuzzy thinking, and governance. He therefore appealed to his audience to view the thoughtful use of language as a universal civic responsibility (p. 353).

As Orwell (1961) puts it, contemporary English, particularly that which is written, is replete with poor habits which get spread when one writer imitates another. He points out that this can be prevented if a person is determined to make the necessary effort. If a person can shed such habits he or she will become a clearer thinker, and thinking more clearly is a crucial initial move towards political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers. (Source: Collected Essays: Orwell, 1961, p. 353.)

Modern English, especially written English, is full of bad habits which spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. If one gets rid of these habits one can think more clearly, and to think clearly is a necessary first step towards political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers. (Source: Collected Essays: Orwell, 1961, p. 353.)
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We do not yet understand all the ways in which brain chemicals are related to emotions and thoughts, but the salient point is that our state of mind has an immediate and direct effect on our state of body.

(Source: Love, Medicine and Miracles: Siegel, 1986, p. 69)

Paraphrase 1: Siegel (1986) writes that we still do not know all the ways in which brain chemistry is related to emotions and thoughts, but the important point is that our mental state has an immediate and direct effect on our physical state (p. 69).

Paraphrase 2: Siegel (1986) writes that although the relationship between brain chemistry and thoughts and feelings is not fully understood, we do know that our psychological state affects our physical state (p. 69).

Paraphrase 3: According to Siegel (1986), our mind affects our body quickly and directly, although we do not yet understand every aspect of how brain chemicals relate to emotions and thoughts (p. 69).

Retrieved from http://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing
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