

Paraphrasing & Quoting from Online Sources

Grade 8 Expository Reading & Writing Unit

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A **quote** is the exact word-for-word part of an article that you decide to copy and use in your own paper to support your ideas and add credibility to the topic you're writing about.



Wait! That sounds like plagiarism!

Not if we CITE the source so we're giving credit to the original author!



A **paraphrase** is when you reword the original quote because you want to make it clearer or because you just have a better way to say it. It's different from a summary because you're not really leaving anything out. In a summary, you stick with the main ideas and leave out the rest. In a paraphrase, you're just saying it in a different way.

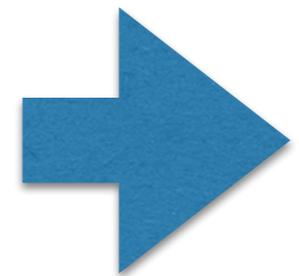


**So that's why
you still have to
CITE the source
of the
information.**

**Right! Just CITE
it the same way
you'd CITE a
direct quote! No
big deal!**



So what's the difference
between a **paraphrase**
and a **summary**? They
sound a lot alike...



Here's a random paragraph I wrote about bugs.

Have you ever seen quick-flying bugs zapping around outside at night, glowing brightly as they zip around? Sure, most people have seen these little lightening bugs, but they aren't the only living creatures that light up at night! There are different types of bugs and worms that also glow at night. What causes the glow is that the insect or bug or worm secretes a mucus of some type as a way of communicating with other similar bugs. The "glow-in-the-dark stuff" that gets secreted is a result of all kinds of things: perhaps a way to say hello to the opposite gender, or a warning when feeling threatened, or simply a way to attract the prey of other even smaller bugs to eat for food. Whatever the reason is for the glow, it's an interesting fact that lightening bugs are not the only ones with the power to light the night.

To summarize the paragraph, I have to focus just on the main idea and the most important supporting details.

Lightening bugs fly around at night and light things up, but they're not the only ones with the ability to do this, and there are lots of reasons for why certain types of bugs even have a light. Using lights could be a type of communication with other flying bugs, like a way to say "hello" or a way to attract smaller bugs to eat! So there are many types of bugs that can use lights at night and there are many reasons why they might use them, too.

To paraphrase the paragraph, I have to say the same thing in a different way. I might be able to shorten it, or maybe not.

Many types of bugs and worms are active at night and light things up! The way it happens is that whether it's a bug or a worm or an insect, the light they make is a result of some kind of mucus they ooze out that creates the glow. Why they need this glow is not certain. It could be used to attract other bugs or it could be used when they feel like they're in danger, or perhaps it's a way to find food. Regardless of the purpose for the light they create, there are some bugs and insects and even worms that can create little glowing lights when they need to.

**Is there any information in this video
that we haven't covered yet?**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osqCjBx6IZE>

Approx. 2-3 minutes

Should I paraphrase the information, or should I just summarize it and then use a direct quote?

If the author's original words are just perfect and you can't think of a better, more clearer way to say it, then just quote it!

If the author's original words make the point that you're trying to make, then just quote it!

If you have a personal example or experience and then you read an article where the author proves your point, then quote it!

Don't use too many quotes, though. Use them sparingly, like hair gel!

Should I paraphrase the information, or should I just summarize it and then use a direct quote?

If the author has great information but you can think of a better way to say it, then **paraphrase** it!

If you like the author's information but you want to change it up and say it in a different way, then do it!

Remember that you still have to **C I T E** the source of the paraphrased information.

Should I paraphrase the information, or should I just summarize it and then use a direct quote?

If the author has great information but you can think of a better way to say it, then **paraphrase** it!

If you like the author's information but you want to change it up and say it in a different way

Remember that you still have to **C I T E** the source of the paraphrased information.

Should I paraphrase the information, or should I just summarize it and then use a direct quote?

Yes, you can write a brief summary of what you already know and then just add in a quote from the original author (cited, of course). That quote will basically be there to support and add credibility to something you just wrote about.

Remember that you have to **C I T E** the source of the quote.

Let me show you an example of my own research. My dog is prone to chronic ear infections. I want to learn more about it so I know a few things before I take her to a new veterinarian. Since I've been through this with my dog before, I already have some basic knowledge in my head about ear infections. Here's what I already know:

One vet told me that sometimes food allergies show up in dogs in the form of ear infections. So dog owners can start with changing their dog's diet to try to figure out what type of dog food may be causing the allergy.

So now when I look for online articles, I'm looking for something that will add to what I already know. I need to find information about the relationship between ear infections and food allergies.

One vet told me that sometimes food allergies show up in dogs in the form of ear infections. So dog owners can start with changing their dog's diet to try to figure out what type of dog food may be causing the allergy.

I think I found something!

Here's a quote from a good online resource written by a doctor and it says, "In one study, dogs with food allergies suffered from itchy ears in 80 percent of the cases."

Wow! I didn't know that! So this is really, really common. I'm not the only one struggling with this. Now how can I add that quote to my own information? Should I quote all of it? Some of it? Should I paraphrase it? Hmm...

Example #1

See how I connected my own words with the quote all one sentence?

The AKC website mentions that “dogs with food allergies suffered from itchy ears in 80 percent of the cases.”

...Or I could write it this way...

It’s interesting to know that “dogs with food allergies suffered from itchy ears in 80 percent of the cases” according to the AKC website.

Example #2

I can also paraphrase the information and not use quotation marks since I'm not copying it word-for-word. So here's the original quote from the online article:

In one study, dogs with food allergies suffered from itchy ears in 80 percent of the cases.

Here's my paraphrase of that quote. Notice I still have to mention the AKC website where I got that information.

The AKC website tells us that 80% of ear infections come from food allergies in dogs.

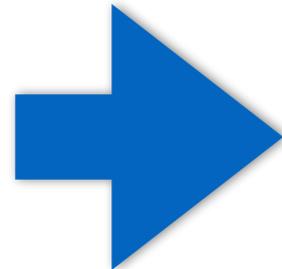
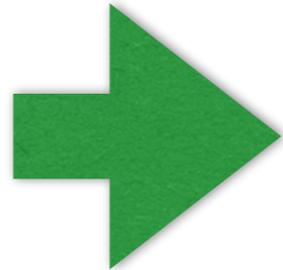
Example #1

Dog owners can start with changing their dog's diet to try to figure out what type of dog food may be causing the allergy. The AKC website mentions that "dogs with food allergies suffered from itchy ears in 80 percent of the cases." Finding the cause of the constant ear infections could be as simple as changing the dog food and trying new food in order to figure out the source of the allergy.

Here's what I did:

Here are my own words based on stuff I already knew from my own personal experience with my dog and the vet we use.

You see that I had to mention the source of the quote. Now someone can look at my Works Cited page to get even more details about where I got the information.



Dog owners can start with changing their dog's diet to try to figure out what type of dog food may be causing the allergy. The AKC website mentions that "dogs with food allergies suffered from itchy ears in 80 percent of the cases." Finding the cause of the constant ear infections could be as simple as changing the dog food and trying new food in order to figure out the source of the allergy.

Then I thought of something to say about the quote I chose. Do you see how I kind of added my own thought and idea here at the end?

Now you get to try it!

You need your Works Cited page you created yesterday. You need some blank paper, too.

You'll go to those websites and you'll do what I did.

- 1) Write down your thoughts, knowledge, and experience related to the topic you chose.**
- 2) Now go to one of the online sources from your Works Cited paper and look for a quote you can use or paraphrase that supports or adds to what you wrote down already.**
- 3) Remember to cite the source.**
- 4) Remember to write something about the topic in your own words, then embed the quote, and then follow up with an explanation of the quote as well.**