

The Use and Abuse of Paraphrases and Quotations in Academic Writing

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Workshop objectives

- The role of quoting and paraphrasing in academic writing
- Some pitfalls when integrating quotes into academic writing
- The advantages of paraphrasing
- The elements of a paraphrase
- Some pitfalls when incorporating paraphrases into academic writing

Why do we quote others?

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In academic writing, the verbatim reproduction of another's words is **always** signaled by the use of quotation marks, and any failure to do so is considered a serious ethical violation.

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We use quotation marks *to advertise the fact* that we've reproduced someone's words exactly.

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Physicians create a culture in hospital settings that takes many forms. “A primary way in which leaders influence norms and values to build a high-performance culture is through cultural leadership” (Daft, 2015, p. 438). An analysis of status symbols, patient relationships, and inter-professional communication reveals how physicians convey authority in the healthcare setting.

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In schools or learning communities, Distributed Leadership aligns with ideals of good citizenship because of the trust that is garnered among employees. **As Mascall, Leithwood, Straus, & Sacks (2008) explain, “trust, collective efficacy and academic emphasis” are ingredients of academic optimism (p. 216).**

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Therein belongs all of nursing science (i.e., the verified facts, principles, and laws that have been discovered through scientific inquiry to be valid, relevant and useful for nursing practice)...

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One way of endorsing the objectives of academic optimism is by adopting organizational citizenship behavior (OCB), a phrase that “...indicate[s] behaviors that [are] not required as part of the job, but offered in order to help others in the organization” (Mascall et al., 2008, p. 216).

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- It allows the writer to accommodate the new context by adapting the original claim.
- **It allows the writer to accommodate the emergent ideas by giving them their own form of expression.**

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- **Page numbers are optional (though encouraged).**

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- Physicians create a culture in hospital settings that takes many forms. A chief means that leaders use to affect standards and beliefs to make high-quality culture is cultural leadership (Daft, 2015, p. 438).

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- Physicians create a culture in hospital settings that takes many forms. In many cases, they shape the culture, and improve performance, with their leadership (Daft, 2015, p. 438).

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- The syntax is too close to the original.
- The paraphrase is false or misleading.
- **The paraphrase is too long**

Exercises

The following exercises are available courtesy of Purdue University and can be accessed at the link below.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/02/>

Sample answers are available here:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/03/>

Exercise 1

"The Antarctic is the vast source of cold on our planet, just as the sun is the source of our heat, and it exerts tremendous control on our climate," [Jacques] Cousteau told the camera. "The cold ocean water around Antarctica flows north to mix with warmer water from the tropics, and its upwellings help to cool both the surface water and our atmosphere. Yet the fragility of this regulating system is now threatened by human activity" (Audubon, 1990, p. 17).

Answer 1

According to Jacques Cousteau, human activity is jeopardizing a delicate natural mechanism that controls the earth's climate. He fears that this activity could upset the system that brings cold Antarctic waters north where they serve to cool the oceans and atmosphere (Audubon, 1990, p. 17).

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According to Jacques Cousteau, **the activity of people in Antarctica** is jeopardizing a delicate natural mechanism that controls the earth's climate. He fears that human activity could interfere with the balance between the sun, the source of the earth's heat, and the important source of cold from Antarctic waters that flow north and cool the oceans and atmosphere ("Captain Cousteau" 17).

Exercise 2

“The twenties were the years when drinking was against the law, and the law was a bad joke because everyone knew of a local bar where liquor could be had. They were the years when organized crime ruled the cities, and the police seemed powerless to do anything against it. Classical music was forgotten while jazz spread throughout the land, and men like Bix Beiderbecke, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie became the heroes of the young. The flapper was born in the twenties, and with her bobbed hair and short skirts, she symbolized, perhaps more than anyone or anything else, America's break with the past” (Yancey, 1989, p. 25).

Answer 2

During the twenties lawlessness and social nonconformity prevailed. In cities organized crime flourished without police interference, and in spite of nationwide prohibition of liquor sales, anyone who wished to buy a drink knew where to get one. Musicians like Louis Armstrong become favorites, particularly among young people, as many turned away from highly respectable classical music to jazz. One of the best examples of the anti-traditional trend was the proliferation of young "flappers," women who rebelled against custom by cutting off their hair and shortening their skirts (Yancey, 1989, p. 25).

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Exercise 3

“Of the more than 1000 bicycling deaths each year, three-fourths are caused by head injuries. Half of those killed are school-age children. One study concluded that wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent. In an accident, a bike helmet absorbs the shock and cushions the head” (Consumer Reports, 1990, p. 348).

Answer 3

The use of helmets is key to reducing bicycling fatalities, three-quarters of which are due to head injuries. By cushioning the head, a helmet can reduce injury by 85%, saving hundreds of lives each year, half of them school children (Consumer Reports, 1990, p. 348).

Exercise 4

“Matisse is the best painter ever at putting the viewer at the scene. He's the most realistic of all modern artists, if you admit the feel of the breeze as necessary to a landscape and the smell of oranges as essential to a still life. "The Casbah Gate" depicts the well-known gateway Bab el Aassa, which pierces the southern wall of the city near the sultan's palace. With scrubby coats of ivory, aqua, blue, and rose delicately fenced by the liveliest gray outline in art history, Matisse gets the essence of a Tangier afternoon, including the subtle presence of the bowaab, the sentry who sits and surveys those who pass through the gate” (Plagens, 1990, p. 50).

Answer 4

No painter conveys the essence of a scene or the sensory experience as well as Matisse. In "The Casbah Gate," for instance, the splash of colors and lively outlines transport the viewer to an afternoon at the Bab el Aassa gateway near the Sultan's palace in Tangier, where the seated sentry keeps a quiet eye on those who enter and leave the city (Plagens, 1990, p. 50).

Exercise 5

“While the Sears Tower is arguably the greatest achievement in skyscraper engineering so far, it's unlikely that architects and engineers have abandoned the quest for the world's tallest building. The question is: Just how high can a building go? Structural engineer William LeMessurier has designed a skyscraper nearly one-half mile high, twice as tall as the Sears Tower. And architect Robert Sobel claims that existing technology could produce a 500-story building” (Bachman, 1990, p. 15).

Answer 5

The Sears Tower may be the world's most impressive work of architectural engineering, but the quest to build ever-taller structures continues. A tower that stretches nearly half a mile into the sky has already been designed, and some claim that we have the wherewithal to construct a building 500-stories high (Bachman, 1990, p. 15).

Final questions or comments