

PARAPHRASING

When to paraphrase

- For emphasis--to emphasize your point or to better emphasize the writer's point.
- To simplify--to take a complex statement and make it more readable for your audience.
- For clarification--technical words, jargon, etc. may be changed to more standard terms
- To maintain style--to keep your style consistent change sentence structure, word choice, etc.
- To retain length--to include all details and when length is not an issue as with summarizing.

Cautions about paraphrasing

- Avoid changing just some of the words.
- Do not just change the words. Also, change sentence structure.
- Do not add new ideas.
- Avoid judging the source or adding your own interpretation.
- Do not create a straw man fallacy by exaggerating or misrepresenting the source.

Paraphrasing Strategies

- Read the passage several times.
- Outline the passage.
- Rearrange the outline.
- Write the paraphrase from the outline.
- Compare your paraphrase to the original passage.
- Write the appropriate citation.

PARAPHRASE

●Source text: “Irish students use more magic than American students in four of the six activities: exam-taking, face-to-face interactions, illness, and dangerous activities. There is also a slight tendency for Americans to use more magic in gambling and sports, although the differences between the two groups are not statistically significant.”

Outline using your own words:

1. People attending classes in Ireland are a little more superstitious than their counterparts in the USA.
2. In Ireland students rely on magic to get them through tests, social situations, sickness, and moments of danger.
3. While American students apply magic to bring luck to athletic events and to betting.
4. However, both groups are not significantly different.

Rearrange:

3. While American students apply magic to bring luck to athletic events and to betting activities.
2. In Ireland students rely on magic to get them through tests, social situations, sickness, and moments of danger.
1. People attending classes in Ireland are a little more superstitious than their counterparts in the USA.
4. However, both groups are not significantly different.

Write the paraphrase:

In a report about the place of magic in our lives, American and Irish students were questioned. American students apply magic to bring luck to athletic events and to betting activities while in Ireland students rely on magic to get them through tests, social situations, sickness, and moments of danger. Even though people attending classes in Ireland are a little more superstitious than their American counterparts, they are not significantly different in their ways of using magic (Felson and Gmelch 282).