Top of Form

**Paraphrasing**  **Assignment Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_**

Paraphrasing helps you make connections with prior knowledge, demonstrate comprehension, and remember what you have read. Remember, if you cannot paraphrase after reading, you need to go back and reread to get the things you didn’t understand.

A common mistake writers make when paraphrasing is to simply substitute synonyms into the original work. Remember that you must alter sentence structure as well. The following examples will help you to distinguish an acceptable paraphrase from one that borrows too heavily from the original source. Identify whether each paraphrase is "OK" or whether it is "Too Close to the Original."

ORIGINAL

Left partially deaf by a childhood inflammation of the mastoid bones, Thomas Edison throughout his life embraced the world of silence, reveled in its space, allowed it to empower him; as much as any man, perhaps, he recognized silence as the territory of inspiration and cultivated its gifts.

--Mark Slouka, "Listening for Silence," Harper's Magazine

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | |
| 1 | Thomas Edison was left partially deaf by a childhood inflammation of the mastoid bones. Because of this Edison embraced the world of silence and reveled in its space. Edison recognized silence as the source of inspiration and cultivated it. | | |
|  |  |  | OK |
|  |  |  | Too Close to Original |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |
| 2 | Left hard of hearing by an early problem with the mastoid bones, Thomas Edison his whole life accepted the realm of silence, enjoyed its isolation, let it empower him. As much as anyone, Edison understood silence as the place of revelation and cultivated its rewards. | | |
|  |  |  | OK |
|  |  |  | Too Close to Original |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |
| 3 | Thomas Edison’s life was enriched by his isolation from sound. A childhood health problem damaged Edison’s hearing; instead of feeling crippled, Edison appreciated the value of quiet. Silence was a necessary source of creativity for Edison. | | |
|  |  |  | OK |
|  |  |  | Too Close to Original |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |

**Write a paraphrase:**

**Read each sentence, then paraphrase it. Read and re-read until you understand all parts of the sentence and its meaning. Underline key words of phrases. Look for synonyms. Keeping the same main idea, write a new sentence that says the same thing, only in your own words. Use a different paper if you don’t have enough room.**

**You can keep abbreviations and technical terms in the original passage, but replace key words and phrases with another way to say them.**

**(Remember to refer to the “paraphrasing powerpoint” presentation, as needed.)**

Bottom of Form

4. Standardized tests have been a part of American education since the mid-1800s, but their use in kindergarten through college has skyrocketed after 2002's No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) mandated annual public school testing in all 50 states.

5. Sales of video games have more than quadrupled from 1995-2008, while the arrest rate for juvenile murders during this time fell 72% and the arrest rate for all juvenile violent crimes declined by 50% in this same period.

6. Social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter can bring people with common interests together, offer exposure to new ideas from around the world, and lower social anxiety. People who have a difficulty communicating in person are more comfortable interacting digitally instead of face to face.

7. Even if the unexpected arrival of three pregnant dogs with no collars or microchips causes volunteers to scramble to find foster homes and prepare for puppies, it’s a good day at Adopt-A-Pet because this means three fewer strays in Mason County. It also means that the dogs and their puppies will find homes instead of facing likely death.

8. Despite all the money fast food companies spend on marketing, advertising, and promotion, most people eat at such places because they see a sign or a familiar building and stop on impulse, not because they had planned to go there.