

# Paraphrasing Your Sources Properly

Paraphrasing appropriately means:

- Utilizing source material, but using language in which is unique to you
- Citing your source with an in-text citation & reference page citation
- Shortening the content from its original length

*Adapted from the Purdue Owl website*

Tips for when you paraphrase:

- Read the original content
- Close the book, web browser etc. and write out the main points of the source
  - This allows for you to not be tempted to poorly paraphrase
- Organize your notes effectively
  - Use different colored text for each source
  - Use the author's name, page number or a place holder for all citations
- Refer back to your original source to ensure you captured the content accurately
- Be sure to quote specific terminology that is unique to the original work

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## Paraphrasing Exercise

Exercise 1:

"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." From Kathleen Yancey, *English 102 Supplemental Guide* (1989): 25.

Exercise 2:

"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." From Ron Bachman, "Reaching for the Sky." *Dial* (May 1990): 15.