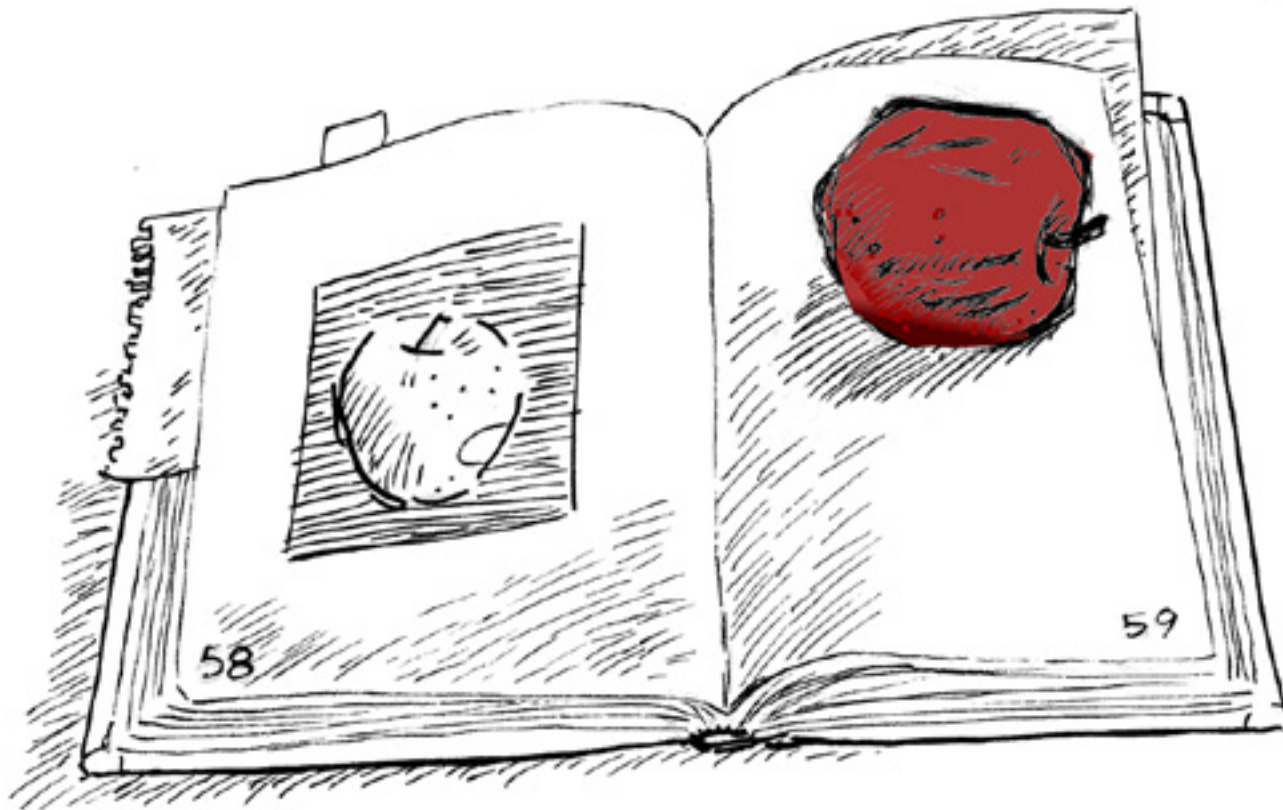


# Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism

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# *Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism*

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## **Research papers make students nervous.**

*There are many ways to unintentionally create improper documentation.*

- What results is unintended plagiarism.
- According to the Bedford/St. Martin's resource guide: *A Writer's Reference* there exist numerous definitions of plagiarism.
- Primarily there are three basic actions which can be seen as plagiarism:
  - > failing to provide proper citations of quotations and paraphrased ideas
  - > failing to utilize quotation marks properly
  - > failing to paraphrase another writer's concepts with your own words (376).
- Earlier in the course we discussed the proper use of signal phrases and in-text citations. These are crucial for constructing strong research papers.
  - > *These elements are expected in all of your papers from this point forward.*

# *Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism*

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## ***Original Material:***

At dawn on Sunday, 8 January 1815, as the mist cleared, the British army attacked the heavily defended ditch and rampart guarding New Orleans. The town, which dated from 1718, was then the one big place on the far side of the Appalachian frontier, the key to the South and the Gulf of Mexico. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803, whereby Napoleon made over 828,000 square miles of French-claimed territory to the United States, thus increasing its national territory by 140 percent and making possible the creation of thirteen new states—all for the princely sum of \$15 million, or four cents an acre—ensured its importance. Governor William Claiborne had said in the following year, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson: “There appears to me a moral certainty that in ten years it will rival Philadelphia or New York.” He was proved right. Until the Ohio Valley could be firmly and cheaply linked to the East Coast, all the trade of the Mississippi had to go in and out through New Orleans.

Johnson, Paul. *The Birth of the Modern: World Society 1815-1830*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991. Print.

## ***Plagiarism:***

New Orleans always existed as the major trade location left of the Appalachian territory and always served as a key access to the South and Gulf of Mexico. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase provided the United States with 828,000 square miles of the formerly French-owned land—all for four cents an acre, a total of \$15 million dollars.

# Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism

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## **Original Material:**

At dawn on Sunday, 8 January 1815, as the mist cleared, the British army attacked the heavily defended ditch and rampart guarding New Orleans. The town, which dated from 1718, was then the **one big place on the far side of the Appalachian frontier, the key to the South and the Gulf of Mexico**. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803, whereby **Napoleon made over 828,000 square miles of French-claimed territory to the United States**, thus increasing its national territory by 140 percent and making possible the creation of thirteen new states—**all for the princely sum of \$15 million, or four cents an acre**—ensured its importance. Governor William Claiborne had said in the following year, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson: “There appears to me a moral certainty that in ten years it will rival Philadelphia or New York.” He was proved right. Until the Ohio Valley could be firmly and cheaply linked to the East Coast, all the trade of the Mississippi had to go in and out through New Orleans.

## **Plagiarism:**

New Orleans always existed as the major trade location **left of the Appalachian territory and always served as a key access to the South and Gulf of Mexico**. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase provided **the United States with 828,000 square miles of the formerly French-owned land—all for four cents an acre, a total of \$15 million dollars**.

# *Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism*

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## ***Not Plagiarism:***

As noted historian Paul Johnson shows in his acclaimed book, *The Birth of the Modern*, New Orleans always existed as the major trade location left of the Appalachian territory and always served as a key access to the South and Gulf of Mexico. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase provided the United States with 828,000 square miles of the formerly French-owned land—all for four cents an acre, a total of \$15 million dollars (1).

# Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism

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## **Not Plagiarism:**

As Paul Johnson shows in his book, *The Birth of the Modern*, New Orleans always existed as the major trade location, left of the Appalachian territory and always served as a key access to the South and Gulf of Mexico. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase provided the United States with 828,000 square miles of the formerly French-owned land—all for four cents an acre, a total of \$15 million dollars (1).

*Signal phrase*

*In-text note -or-  
Parenthetical citation*

In *AWR* pages 382-385 cover various types of **signal phrases** to incorporate into your paragraphs for prevention of dropped quotes and situations of **unintended plagiarism**. Likewise, pages 389-398 cover a wide variety of models of **parenthetical citations** to aid your notations of sources.

# Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism

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## Basic Paragraph Construction

- I. *Topic Sentence opens paragraph and details writer's observations and views.*
  - A. Secondary Evidence Sentence defends topic with more details from writer.
  - B. If further clarification is needed, such as defining terms, another SES can be used.
  - C. The writer now introduces an outside source *with a signal phrase*; in this manner, an authoritative opinion is established for the reader.
    - > Use a quote or paraphrase which:
      - agrees with the subject –**or**–
      - counters the argument –**or**–
      - supplies an alternative, similar authoritative view
  - D. Afterwards, the writer clarifies, re-examines, interprets, defines, or analyzes information provided in the quote. *You get the last word on the subject. Never let the quote/paraphrase speak for itself.*

# Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism

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**Plagiarism** (<http://www.plagiarism.org>; *AWR* p 376-379)

*—so what **is** plagiarism?*

- Act of fraud.
- Using statements or data and claiming it as your own.
- Copying text word for word from another source, claiming it as your own.
- Paraphrasing without crediting the source.

*What is a paraphrase?*

**Paraphrasing** is the restatement of a text or passage giving the meaning in another form; rewording.



# *Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism*

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**All of the following are considered plagiarism: (from *plagiarism.org*)**

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving proper full credit
- copying words or concepts from a source so that it makes up a majority of your work, *whether you give credit or not*

# *Paraphrasing vs. Plagiarism*

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**Always keep in mind:** Just changing the words of an original source is ***not*** sufficient to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized.

## **Summary**

- A summary is a concise series of statements, written in your own words, briefly explaining information found in another source. Usually it is useful to summarize an article from another source as a means of defending your topic. Keep it brief and accurate—*less than four sentences is ideal.*

# *Paraphrasing vs. Summary*

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## **Paraphrasing**

- As already discussed, paraphrasing is when you take a paragraph or short series of paragraphs from another source, and then form the initial idea *in your own words*.
  1. read the original passage until you fully understand its meaning.
  2. set the original source aside and compose your version.
  3. check your version against the original for accuracy
  4. check your version to see if you borrowed unique phrasing unintentionally
  5. credit the original source in the paper **and** in the work cited page.