

## WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

- All research papers are essentially a large collection of paraphrases linked together by your own thoughts and analysis.
- You need to string together, analyze, and put into context the paraphrases that you use.
- Use transitional words, phrases, and ideas to help link information together so that it isn't choppy.
- Put the last name of the author or title of the webpage **AFTER** you're finished paraphrasing their information.
- You should **NEVER USE QUOTES** with a paraphrase
  
- Paraphrase does **NOT** just change a few words and ideas
- You need to **RESTRUCTURE** the ideas and make them your own
- You must avoid using the same phrases and sequence of information
- Digest the information, then without looking at the original quote, put it into your own words
- Do not merely replace words with synonyms; this is plagiarism and you're better off just using a direct quote in this case.

## SAMPLE PARAPHRASE

### ORIGINAL PASSAGE

Students frequently overuse direct quotations when taking notes, and as a result, they overuse quotations in their final research papers. Typically, only about 10% or less of your final manuscript should contain direct quotes from experts. Therefore, you should utilize the art of paraphrasing when composing your paper. Otherwise, your final product will merely be one long list of quotes. You need to digest the content and information that you research, then turn it into a personalized account which supports your thesis statement, being sure to use parenthetical citations as you go.

**CITATION: Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed., 1976, pp. 46-47.**

### PARAPHRASE OF THE QUOTE ABOVE

When composing a research paper, approximately 10% or less should be directly quoted material. The rest should be paraphrased, so that you aren't merely listing a bunch of facts and statistics (Lester). Taking information from experts and converting it into a unique thought which does not resemble the original content, is a skill that can take time to develop. Most importantly, each time that a paraphrase is used, you must provide a parenthetical citation, in order to give credit to the source of your ideas and information (Lester); failing to do so is plagiarism.

## RESEARCH PARAGRAPH REQUIREMENTS

- Introduce/lead reader into your topic (Hook: 1-2 sentences long)
- Thesis statement (1-2 sentences long)
  - If your wonder was: *What are tears made of?*
  - Your thesis statement could be: *As it turns out, tears are comprised of a vast number of substances.*
- Paraphrased information which supports your thesis/answers your wonder question
- Parenthetical citations appropriately inserted after paraphrased information and statistics
- At least one original idea or example
- Concluding statement to wrap everything up (1-2 sentences)
- Transitional words and phrases to link ideas