

Paraphrasing to Avoid Plagiarism

When you copy content word for word, you must enclose it in quotation marks and give credit to the author in the text of the paper and in the References list.

However, a research paper should not be mostly quotes joined by a few of your own words. That's why you need to learn to paraphrase.

Paraphrasing is rewriting content in your own words.

Students often think this means switching words and phrases around and substituting similar words just enough to make content a little bit different. However, this **minimal rewriting is plagiarism**. The content has to be significantly rewritten so that it is not a thinly disguised version of the original.

Learning to paraphrase improves reading comprehension by forcing writers to focus on each word. See the examples below.



ORIGINAL #1:

The ability to swallow secretions, which requires a complex coordination of neuromuscular reflexes, is arguably a more reliable tool for determining the patient's airway protection ability (Walls, 2000). Inability to manage these secretions will lead to signs of airway compromise.

Not sufficiently paraphrased

According to Walls (2000), determining a patient's airway protection ability can be done by noting the ability to swallow secretions. Swallowing secretions requires a complex coordination of neuromuscular reflexes. Airway compromise is shown by the inability to manage these secretions.

Sufficiently paraphrased

According to Walls (2000), a nurse can assess a patient's airway by determining whether he or she can swallow secretions, an activity that requires the reflexes involved to act together in a complex manner. The airway can be protected only if these reflexes cooperate successfully.

ORIGINAL #2

The responsibilities of the health professionals in the dental sector may be summarized as recognizing, recording and reporting of the suspected abuse.

Insufficiently paraphrased

Health professionals in the dental sector are supposed to recognize, record, and report the suspected abuse.

Sufficiently paraphrased

Dental professionals providing care to children sometimes spot signs of possible abuse. Like other health care providers, they have a responsibility to protect these young victims. The signs must be documented, and authorities must be contacted to address the situation.

ORIGINAL #3

Attributing any portion of the responsibility to a mother with no prior knowledge of her child's abuse prevents the offender from assuming accountability for his actions, thereby increasing the chances of re-offending.

Insufficiently paraphrased

Attributing blame to a female parent with no previous knowledge of her child's mistreatment keeps the offender from being accountable for what he did, and this increases the chances that he will re-offend.

Sufficiently paraphrased

It is critical to make an accurate determination of the mother's knowledge of the abuse. If part of the blame is assigned to a mother who was unaware her child was being abused, the real abuser escapes accepting full responsibility. Being "let off the hook" in this manner makes it more likely he will to continue his offenses.