

Paraphrasing

As a writer, you will often paraphrase source material instead of directly quoting it. This means that you will translate information from the source into your own words. This helps with the ‘flow’ of the paper because the reader doesn’t have to switch between your words and the source’s words. There are two very important things to keep in mind when paraphrasing: 1) The material should be completely in your own words and sentence structure, and 2) The material should be cited with an in-text citation.

Instructions for paraphrasing

1. Read and understand the source material
2. Write your paraphrase *without looking at the source*
This is a very important step that will ensure your paraphrase is not using any of the same words or sentence structure as the original source.
3. Review your paraphrase for accuracy
4. Clearly introduce paraphrase and include an in-text citation

Example: Direct Quote from a Source:

According to the American Beekeeping Federation (2015), “Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a serious problem threatening the health of honey bees and the economic stability of commercial beekeeping and pollination operations in the United States. Despite a number of claims in the general and scientific media, a cause or causes of CCD have not been identified by researchers.”

Poorly Paraphrased Example:

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a severe issue threatening the well-being of honey bees and the economy of commercial beekeeping and pollination operations in America. Despite many claims in the world of science, causes of CCD have not been discovered.

Well Paraphrased Example:

According to the American Beekeeping Federation (2015), honey bee colonies are at risk of suffering from Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a condition which affects the farming industry. Scientists have not agreed upon a cause of CCD.

References

American Beekeeping Federation. (2015). Honey bees and Colony Collapse Disorder. Retrieved from <http://www.abfnet.org/?38>