

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Activity 23: Using the Words of Others

One of the most important features of academic writing is using words and ideas from written sources to support your own point, and demonstrate your understanding of others' ideas. There are three ways to do this:

- A **direct quotation** uses the exact words of the original source with quotation marks.
- A **paraphrase** communicates the meaning of the original source but in your own words. The length is about the same, and no quotation marks are used.
- A **summary** communicates the main point(s) in your own words and is much shorter than the original source.
- When referring to the ideas of others, remember to do the following:
 - Include the title. Use quotation marks if it is a shorter work like an article or a short story. Underline or *italicize* it if it is a longer work such as a book or play.
 - Include the author. The first time you mention the author's name, use the full name as it appears on the story or book. After the first time, use only the author's last name.
 - If you use the exact words of the author, use quotation marks.
 - Use appropriate and varied verbs to "lead into" the reference (e.g., argues, believes, describes, explains, questions, reports, discusses, etc.).
 - Be sure to comment on the reference. Pretend that you are in a serious discussion with the author and that you want to agree, disagree, question, relate to, or argue with him or her. This is the Sandwich technique: Make a statement, reference, respond.

Activity 24: Using Quotations

One difficulty in citing sources is choosing which sentences or ideas to include in your essay. Evaluate the following direct quotation choices. Discuss your answers with a classmate.

1. **Which quote best explains the reason we are so interested in celebrities and may even fantasize about them?**
 - a. King suggests that "Truth heals, and the truth is that celebrities, as much fun as our fantasies of them may be, can actually serve a purpose in our lives" (par. 18).
 - b. "We like to fantasize that our lives could become like theirs—we too could be beautiful, desirable, talented, rich" (King, par. 3).
2. **Which quote is the author's observation?**
 - a. "No obsession is a good thing, especially when you look at the type of role models that recent celebrities have become" (King, par. 8).

- b. “We too are waiting for celebrities to flame out and reach some sort of a bottom that makes them seem a little more human and more like us” (King, par. 6).

3. Which of the following would be more worth quoting in your essay? Why?

- a. “Some believe we are obsessed with celebrities because we need to have an escape from the humdrum or everyday life” (King, par. 6).
- b. “Except they have big houses. And a lot of cars. And a lot of other stuff” (King, par. 5).

Activity 25: Paraphrasing

When you refer to another text in your own writing, you might quote the text directly, copying the exact words of the writer in quotation marks, or you might want to paraphrase the text. A paraphrase expresses another writer’s idea completely in your own words; therefore, you do not use quotation marks. However, even though the paraphrase is in your own words, you need to be careful to cite the source of the idea by giving the title of the text and the author’s name.

Paraphrasing is a valuable skill because. . .

- It is better than quoting when the information is not particularly unique or special.
- It helps you control the temptation to quote too much.
- It shows that you have understood the meaning of the original text by putting it completely in your own words. It’s impressive!

Learning to paraphrase well takes practice. The following steps will help you:

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Without looking at the original source, write a few notes or phrases about the meaning of the passage.
3. Looking at your notes, write a sentence in your own words that communicates the meaning of the original source.
4. Look back at the original source to be sure you have accurately communicated the meaning in your paraphrase. Make any necessary adjustments.

Paraphrase the following two quotes from Activity 24.

Quote: “We too, are waiting for celebrities to flame out and reach some sort of a bottom that makes them seem a little more human and more like us” (King, par. 6).

Paraphrase 1:

Quote: “We like to fantasize that our lives could become like theirs—we too could be beautiful, desirable, talented, rich” (King, par. 3).

Paraphrase 2:

Trade papers and evaluate your classmates’ paraphrases.

Paraphrase #1	Yes	No
Is any important information missing?		
Is any information present in the paraphrase that is not in the original quote?		
Did the writer use his/her own words and sentence structure?		
Paraphrase #2	Yes	No
Is any important information missing?		
Is any information present in the paraphrase that is not in the original quote?		
Did the writer use his or her own words and sentence structure?		