

Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World

Topic 4 Content: Summarizing, Paraphrasing, and Directly Quoting

Introduction

Summarizing, Paraphrasing, and Directly Quoting


Summarizing

Paraphrasing

Directly Quoting

Introduction

As you compose your first draft, recall that there are generally three ways you can present the supporting evidence from your research: You can summarize, paraphrase, or directly quote information. In this interactivity, click each of the tabs to explore summaries, paraphrases, and direct quotations in greater detail.

A photograph of a young man with dark hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and light blue jeans, sitting on a set of concrete stairs. He is looking down at an open book he is holding in his hands. His right hand is resting on his chin, suggesting he is thinking or reading intently. A dark blue backpack is on the stairs next to him.

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A summary condenses large amounts of text and information into a few sentences. Summarizing an entire research study, law, policy, or event is a good way to add supporting evidence to your paper. If you attempt to outline the entire source in detail, you will lose your reader. Instead, focus on the main points of the source that directly relate to your point or claim. Since you will also be recording the publication information, you can always go back later to refer to the original source if necessary.

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Paraphrasing

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Summarizing

Paraphrasing

A paraphrase puts the original text into your own words. Paraphrases are generally shorter than the original material. In order to make certain that your readers understand your evidence, you should paraphrase information that is too technical for the average reader or that uses difficult or complicated language.

Directly Quoting

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Directly Quoting

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A direct quotation uses the exact words of a source in your writing. Using a direct quotation from an expert can add strength to your argument. Remember, you have to cite direct quotations just as you must cite summaries and paraphrases. When your source is a true expert on the issue you are arguing, it is a good idea to quote directly because changing the wording of the text may diminish the strength or effect of the words.

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