How to Write a Strong Paper

Tell them what you're going to say

Say it

Tell them what you said

Five-Paragraph Essay

- 1. Introduction including a thesis statement
- 2. Point 1
- 3. Point 2
- 4. Point 3
- 5. Conclusion

Thesis Statement

One sentence that lays out the argument you are going to present.

Should homework be banned?
Homework should be banned because it stifles student's creativity, takes too much time, and is not actually help students learn.

Donald Trump's use of fear rhetoric during his 2016 presidential campaign mobilized a new segment of voters, which in turn helped him win the election.

How to Write a Strong Paragraph

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Research Tips and Tricks

How do you find new sources?

Using a New Source

- Find on Google Scholar, a database, a reputable source
- Check the methods used
- Check the source reliability
- Skim for main points
- Make notes of the main points as you go (not in the same words)
- Annotate at the end: summary with main points and the most important quotes or terms

Attribution/Citation

- Author
- Journal
- Title of the word
- Where you found it
- Date read/date published
- Check citation guides (Purdue Owl)

Six Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

- 1. Read and re-read the article, study, textbook, website, etc. until you fully understand it
- 2. Set the original aside, and write a paraphrase
- 3. Write a few key words to remind you how you might use the source
- 4. Compare paraphrase and the original to ensure all important material is covered
- 5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique terms or ideas borrowed exactly from the source
- 6. Record the source information including author, page number title, etc.

Techniques

- 1. Acknowledge sources
- 2. Change vocabulary
- 3. Change word class
- 4. Vary sentence patterns
- 5. Change the order of ideas
- 6. Change percentages and numbers
- 7. Break long sentences into short ones

Acknowledge Sources

- 1. Resource 1 and 2
- 2. According to Smith,....
- 3. Recent evidence shows that... (Smith 1996; Jones, 1999; Johnson, 2001).

Use Synonyms and Keywords: Change vocabulary

Original: The U.S. government declared that the AIDS crisis poses a national security threat. The announcement followed an intelligence report that found high rates of HIV infection could lead to widespread political destabilization.

Paraphrase: The government of the United States announced that AIDS could harm the nation's security. The government warned the population after an important governmental study concluded that political problems could result from large numbers of people infected with HIV (Snell, 2005).

Adapted from: SAIUP Annotating, Paraphrasing and Summary powerpoint found here

Change Word Class

Original: Medical professor John Swanson says that global changes are influencing the spread of disease.

Paraphrase: According to John Swanson, a professor of medicine, changes across the globe are causing diseases to spread (James, 2004).

Vary Sentence Patterns

Original: Although only about one-tenth of the world's population

lives there, sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region, accounting for 72 percent of the people infected with HIV during 2000.

Paraphrase: Approximately 10 percent of the world's population resides in sub-Saharan Africa. *However*, this area of the world has the highest percentage of AIDS-related illnesses. *In fact*, in 2000, almost three-fourths of the population had the HIV virus (Bunting, 2004).

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Change Word Order/Order of Ideas

Original: Angier (2001) reported that *malaria kills* more than one million people *annually*, the overwhelming majority of them children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Paraphrase: Every year, more than a million people are killed by malaria, and most of the victims are children who live in sub-Saharan Africa (Angier, 2001).

Change Percentages and Numbers

Original: Minority groups in the United States have been hit hardest by the epidemic. African Americans, who make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for 46 percent of the AIDS cases diagnosed in 1998.

Paraphrase: The AIDS epidemic has mostly affected minorities in the United States. For example, in 1998, *less than 15 percent* of the total population was African, but *almost half* of the people diagnosed with AIDS in the United States that year were African American (Jenson, 2000).

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