

Department of Health Sciences

APA Resources

Citation/Paraphrasing/Quoting

Updated 10/17/12

HOW TO PARAPHRASE

When you are writing a paper, you will often include information and ideas from other sources. Even if you either use quotation marks or the source completely, you should completely change the sentence structure of the original when paraphrasing. Some examples of acceptable and unacceptable paraphrases should make this distinction clear.

ORIGINAL SOURCE

The park [Caspers Wilderness Park] was closed in 1992 after the family of a girl severely mauled there in 1986 won a suit against the county. The award of \$2.1 million for the mountain lion attack on Laura Small, who was 5 at the time, was later reduced to \$1.5 million.

Reyes and Messina (1995) "More Warning Signs," p. 10

PLAGIARISM: Unacceptable borrowing

Reyes and Messina (1995) reported that Caspers Wilderness Park was closed in 1992 after the family of a girl brutally mauled there in 1986 sued the county. The family was awarded \$1.5 million for the mountain lion assault on Laura Small, who was 5 at the time.

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IN -TEXT CITATION: PARAPHRASING

Paraphrasing entails summarizing a sentence/passage, rearranging it, and changing its wording. When a source is paraphrased, credit must be given to it in the text.

Example 1

Rogers (2007) compared reaction times . . .

Example 2

In a recent study of reactions (Rogers, 2007) . . .

Example 3

In 2007 Rogers compared . . .

Example 4

In a recent study of reactions, Rogers (2007) described the method. . . . Rogers also found. . . .

- x If the name of the author appears as part of the narrative (see Example 1) cite only the year of publication in parentheses.
- x If neither the name of the author nor year of publication appear as part of the narrative (see Example 2), place the name and the year, separated by a comma, in parentheses.
- x If both the year and the author are given as part of the narrative, no parenthetical information is needed (see Example 3).
- x Within a paragraph, you do not need to include the year in subsequent reference to a study as long as the study cannot be confused with other studies cited in the article (see Example 4).
- x Include only the year, even if the reference includes month and year.

CO-AUTHORED SOURCE

Two Authors

- x When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in text.
 - o Lakeoff and Johnson (1980) are of the opinion that. . .

Three through five authors

- x When a work has three, four, or five authors, list all the names in the first citation, but only give the name of the first author followed by "et al." (and the year, for a first citation within the paragraph) in subsequent citations.

First citation in Text

Wasserstein, Zappulla, Rosen, Gerstman, and Brock (1994) found . . .

Subsequent first citation per paragraph thereafter

Wasserstein et al. (1994) found . . .

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Cita

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