How to Paraphrase Effectively

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City College Fort Lauderdale Library
What is paraphrasing?

A paraphrase is your own version of information or ideas expressed by someone else.
Steps to Paraphrase Effectively

1. Read the original passage until you understand its meaning.
2. Jot down your paraphrase from memory.
3. Write a key word above the paraphrase to identify the topic later.
4. Compare your paraphrase to the original passage to make sure you have included all essential information, but in a new way.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any words or phrases you borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source information with your paraphrase.
Source:

**Exact Quote:**
“Radio news coverage was at its peak during World War II and the period immediately after. Radio coverage was generally more limited and shallow than what the print media offered, although radio sometimes provided commentary and description that was not available in print coverage. And radio had the advantage of getting information out rapidly” (Purvis, 2001, p. 30).

**Paraphrased passage:**
It was during and after World War II that radio was at its height of popularity. Radio had many advantages compared to other news sources like newspapers. For one thing, radio could provide personal descriptions and commentary on events. Radio was also able to report news much quicker than print media. On the other hand, radio did not usually offer the amount of information that one would get from a written article (Purvis, 2001, p. 30).

**Another option for citing information:**
According to Purvis (2001), radio was at its height of popularity during and after World War II (p. 30).