



# School of NURSING

## Paraphrasing & Quoting. Referring to others' ideas in your work.

In your academic writing, you are going to be using ideas from others in order to build your arguments, tell your stories, and provide evidence for your ideas. Frequently, we do this through paraphrasing or directly quoting the work to which we are referring. The preferred method in graduate level writing is through paraphrasing. This handout will address when and how we paraphrase, how to cite paraphrases and quotes (according to APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition requirements), how paraphrasing is different from quoting, and how and when to use direct quotes.

### Paraphrasing

When we paraphrase, we are putting another author's ideas or findings into our own words. A paraphrase is a tool used in summarizing, but is not a summary itself. The aim is to re-present the information and concept in different words. A paraphrased citation is not always shorter than the original passage.

Here are some common INCORRECT assumptions about paraphrasing:

	If we switch words around we are O.K..
	If somebody did not "say it," then they are my words.
	I have learned about the topic somewhere else; I don't need to cite it.
	This comes from my own expertise.
	I don't know what the article is about, but I switched the words around in this one part; they are my words.
	I don't think we have to cite a paraphrase. We only cite quotes.

## Example paraphrase

### Original

Chopprian (1986) notes “with few exceptions, nurse theorists have not elaborated upon the concept of environment, even though it is a central element in the nursing paradigm (i.e., person, health, nursing, and environment)” (p. 39).

### Paraphrased

Although environment is the most important part of the nursing paradigm—which looks at the person, the health of the patient, the practice of nursing, and the environment—not many have discussed the environment in any detail (Chopprian, 1986).

One paraphrasing trick is to pretend you are explaining the quote, idea, or findings to a person who has not read the work. Read the idea again for best understanding, then look away from the idea and re-state it as though you were explaining it to a classmate.

## Direct Quotes

Sometimes, an author’s original statement is so unique and captures the idea so perfectly, you will want to use a direct quote. It is important to use direct quotes sparingly, and to be sure your voice, as author of the written product, to put the quote into context. Be sure your ideas are represented throughout. Include the author, publication date, and page number where we can find the quote.

### Example (in-text, short direct quote)

Further, Biebel et al., (2018) noted that “incorporating the voice of students with psychiatric disabilities into supported education services can increase access, involvement, and retention” (p. 299).

**Example (longer, block quote)** Place direct quotations that are 40 words or longer in a free-standing block of double-spaced lines and omit quotation marks.

Flores et al. (2018) described how they addressed potential researcher bias when working with an intersectional community of transgender people of color:

Everyone on the research team belonged to a stigmatized group but also held privileged identities. Throughout the research process, we attended to the ways in which our privileged and oppressed identities may have influenced the research process, findings, and presentation of results. (p. 311)

**For more tips, tricks, and ideas for incorporating others’ work into your own, don’t hesitate to request a consultation with the writing coaches at the SON Office of Learning & Writing Support ([www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/learning-writing-support/request-consultation](http://www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/learning-writing-support/request-consultation)).**