

Worksheet: Practicing paraphrasing

Paraphrasing means formulating someone else's ideas in your own words. In order to do so correctly, you must entirely rewrite the passage you are referencing without changing the meaning of the original text.

Take a look at the passages below. Think about how you would put them into your own words while ensuring that they retain their intended meaning.

Some tips for getting started:

1. Read the passage several times. Make sure you fully understand the meaning and that it fits your argument.
2. Note down the key concepts and takeaway points.
3. Write your version of the text, without looking at the original.
4. Compare your paraphrased text with the original text. Adjust any phrases that remain too similar.
5. Bonus: be sure to cite the source where you found the idea!

Passage 1: "In the European Middle Ages, monster stories served as religious teaching tools, offering examples of what not to do, manifestations of the threats posed by the supernatural and the diabolical, and metaphors for the evil humans do to one another."
- David M. Perry and Matthew Gabriele (2021), "Why Dragons Dominated the Landscape of Medieval Monsters", *Smithsonian Magazine*

Your response:

Passage 2: "This year, start-ups with female founders have fared much better. They have raised more venture capital dollars and have executed more exits at greater values than at any point in the last decade. Start-ups with a female founder raised more than \$40 billion through September, almost double the amount invested in companies founded by women in all of 2020 or 2019. Much of the investment surge was concentrated in the tech, health care and retail industries."

- Alisha Haridasani Gupta (2021), "Funding for start-ups founded by women is surging," *The New York Times*

Your response:

Passage 3: "The push to cut plastics use is accelerating the search for new materials, especially for containers that can hold liquids. But glass is an existing material that could be the star of a net-zero carbon economy. Worldwide, glass manufacturing produces at least 86 million tons of carbon dioxide every year. But most of this can be eliminated when glass is recycled, and existing technologies could turn glass manufacturing into a mostly carbon-free process."

- *Nature Magazine* (2021), p. 7-8

Your response:

Answer key: Examples of correct paraphrasing

Passage #1: Many monster stories have their origins in Europe in the Middle Ages. According to Perry and Gabriele (2021), they were often used in religious settings to dissuade people from wrongdoing, and demonstrate the threats posed both by human beings and supernatural ones.

Passage #2: 2021 has been the best year of the decade for female-founded startups, especially those in tech, retail, and health-related fields. Indeed, according to research from *The New York Times*, they have raised twice as much money via venture capital than in 2020 or 2019.

Passage #3: As pressure mounts to seek alternatives to plastic, glass is emerging as a viable option. Glass is easy to recycle, lessening its carbon dioxide emissions. In fact, according to *Nature Magazine* (2021), technology already exists that could make glass production almost entirely carbon-free.