

Paraphrasing

From: *Weaving It Together* by Milada Broukal

When you paraphrase, you put information from another author into different words. In other words, you rephrase it without changing the meaning of the original. A paraphrase should usually be the same length as the original passage so that it includes all the information.

Although you are using your own words when you paraphrase, you are expressing another author's ideas. Therefore, you must be sure to give the author credit for them; otherwise, you will be plagiarizing. Begin your paraphrase with a reference to the author and or title of the work or the source of the article. Use phrases such as:

According to [author's name].....

Based on [author's name]'s article in [source],

In [his/her] book [title], [author's name] indicates that

The following is an example of paraphrasing a paragraph titled "Ancient Medicine."

Original Paragraph

Medicinal practices in the ancient world were as related to religion and philosophy as they were to science. The Egyptians were proficient surgeons who employed an array of medications and surgical practices. Their extensive expertise involving the human anatomy was derived mainly from their practice of embalming. Their ideology behind this was that the deceased person's spirit, or Ka, would perish if the body decomposed. To furnish an eternal abode for the spirit, the body was meticulously preserved. In another part of the ancient world, Chinese medicine was also linked to ideology, in particular the belief that people are closely linked to a universe dominated by two opposing types of forces known as the *yin* and *yang*, the negative and the positive. Physicians were part philosophers who believed that the harmony of the universe and the health of people depended on keeping a balance between the two forces. (*Discovery*, Everett, Reid, and Fara)

Paraphrase

In their book *Discovery*, Everett, Reid and Fara indicate that the practice of healing in the ancient world had as much to do with religion and philosophy as it did with science. Extremely skillful surgeons, the Egyptians used a variety of drugs and surgical techniques. Their broad knowledge of the human anatomy was primarily due to their preservation of the dead. Their belief was that the dead person's spirit, or Ka, would die if the body rotted away. To provide a lasting home for the spirit, the body was mummified as carefully as possible. In the ancient Far East, Chinese medicine also involved philosophical beliefs, especially the idea that people are part of a universe controlled by two conflicting forces known as *yin* and *yang*, the negative and

the positive. Physicians endorsed the philosophical belief that the harmony of the universe and the health of people depended on keeping a balance between the two forces.

Exercise: Look at both, the original and the paraphrase to see how the author of the paraphrase substituted different words and phrases from the original. Make a list.

Example

Original	Paraphrase
Medicinal practices	The practice of healing