

# Teaching Academic Integrity

## Paraphrasing

### *The Reading/Writing Connection*

#### Paraphrasing: More than a Writing Strategy

*Paraphrase* [per-ə-frāz] ~ a restatement of a text in different words, often to clarify meaning.\*

Paraphrasing is most commonly taught as a writing strategy, but there are several underlying benefits to this mighty literacy skill. Learning to paraphrase also strengthens [academic integrity](#) and reading comprehension. Just think... students must first make sense of what they're reading in order to paraphrase. This consists of reading and rereading texts to determine big ideas and supporting details. Hence, teaching paraphrasing is often applied as an intervention for reading comprehension.

#### Paraphrasing Supports Reading

Paraphrasing is just as important to reading as it is to writing! Reading comprehension is all about the ability to process and understand text, which is also the first step to paraphrasing. When we think about paraphrasing, we tend to focus on the final outcome--a nicely written restatement of a text. However, students must exercise several reading skills before the pencil hits the paper.

Let's break it down: In order to paraphrase, students must ask themselves questions about what they're reading to unpack vocabulary, syntax, and grammar. That thought process requires students to draw inferences about the meaning of



the text. Drawing inferences, arriving to conclusions about the text using prior knowledge, context clues, and analysis, helps students arrive at the main idea of the passage. All of these skills which are commonly associated with reading are exercised while students are paraphrasing text aloud or in writing.

Paraphrasing as a reading/writing strategy is applicable to all content areas from upper elementary to high school and beyond. It is also suitable for use with varying types of texts such as fiction and non-fiction.

## Paraphrasing Supports Literacy Standards

In addition to those standards which explicitly state it as a necessary research and writing skill, paraphrasing supports several literacy-based standards. For example, the following standards directly make the reading and writing connection when drawing evidence from text.

### Example Standard:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9.A** Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new").

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9.B** Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced").

**Need instructional resources to support paraphrasing?  
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