

Essay Tips: Direct Quotes and Paraphrases

Supporting Evidence in an Essay

Evidence can take the form of a direct quote or paraphrase. Paraphrasing is a great way to avoid overusing direct quotes in your essay. Paraphrasing also helps to develop your ethos because it shows that you fully understand the sources that you are using and can explain the main points in your own words. A paraphrase can be used in place of a direct quote in your essay.

What is the Difference between a Direct Quote and a Paraphrase?

Online Source: Your Dictionary

Direct Quotes

- A direct quote is when you use another person's words (verbatim) to support your argument. A direct quote can be a sentence or just a few words. It is important to make sure that your direct quote fits into your paragraph and flows cohesively (makes sense).
- If you are directly quoting an entire sentence but would like to omit a few words from the sentence, you can do so by using ellipses (...) in place of the unwanted words. When removing words from a direct quote, make sure that you maintain the integrity of the sentence and of the paragraph by double checking to make sure that what you are writing makes sense and flows cohesively.
- If you need to add a word or phrase to a direct quote in order to clarify the meaning or the point that you are making, you can do so by using brackets [].
- A direct quote must be in quotation marks and must include a source citation.

Paraphrases

- Paraphrasing involves taking a set of key facts or opinions and rewording them.
- When paraphrasing, it is important to maintain the original meaning even though you are presenting it in a new form. Basically, you are simply writing something in your own words that expresses another person's original idea.
- Paraphrasing can be done with individual sentences or entire paragraphs.
- Since a paraphrase is not your original thought, credit must be given to the owner by citing the source.
- A paraphrase does not need quotation marks.
- It is possible to directly quote an important word or phrase in a paraphrase

Example of a Direct Quote and a Paraphrase with Labels

Direct Quote:

Open
Quotation
Marks

"Hellen Keller's life spanned years of incredible change for women. Even though she was oppressed by birth [being both blind and deaf], she was an icon to women everywhere who fought to break free...of the bondage a male dominated society was placing on them"

Brackets used to add
clarifying information
into the direct quote

(Williams).

Closed Quotation Marks

Ellipses used to indicate that words were
removed from the direct quote

Paraphrase:

A direct quote
(of an important
phrase) within a
paraphrase

Hellen Keller lived through an era of liberating reform for women, and even though she was "**oppressed by birth,**" she served as an inspiration to many women who were fighting for equal rights in society (Williams).

Parenthetical
Citation
(author's last
name)