

Paraphrasing Information from Handouts

Objective: by the end of this lesson, learners will be able to use paraphrasing techniques to rewrite information from handouts.

1-Definition: To paraphrase is to put in one's own words what has been written or said by another person.

2-Objectives: a- to clarify and explain a message. b- to make the message relevant to one's audience.

c-to support an argument or a viewpoint. d- to give the message a greater impact.

e- to keep a consistent style of writing or speech.

3- Paraphrasing Steps

Step one: read and understand.

Step two: highlight key words and points.

Step three: reorganize information, separate ideas and decompose longer and complex sentences.

Step four: change the words and the structure

1- Find equivalent words or phrases (synonyms). A dictionary, thesaurus or online search can be useful Remark: preserve the meaning of the original text, particularly if you're dealing with technical or scientific terms.

2- Change the words form of the words e.g. turn a verb into a noun.

3- Change the grammatical structure and the word order.

Step five: write from memory what you have understood from the text.

Step six: compare your writing to the original text. Make sure that you have included all the necessary details.

Remark: Paraphrased material should keep its original meaning and (approximate) length.

Task1: Paraphrase the following piece of writing.

Gothic novels

However, many Romantic writers recognized that nature (and human nature) also has a dark side, and can arouse feelings of terror as well as pleasure. This fascination with the destructive power of nature, and even the supernatural, inspired the genre that came to be known as gothic literature. The tone was set in Germany by Goethe's play *Faust*, and the short stories by E. T. A. Hoffmann, but the genre was most eagerly adopted by English novelists, such as Mary Shelley, who wrote *Frankenstein*. Elements of the gothic run through many Victorian novels, often stressing the

untameable nature of a Romantic hero in a wild landscape, as in Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, or the grotesque characters in grim urban surroundings that feature in the works of Charles Dickens. The genre also became popular in the US, as exemplified by Edgar Allan Poe's tales of the macabre; it also influenced the style adopted by Herman Melville in his haunting short stories and *Moby-Dick*.

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¹ From *The Literature Book : Big Ideas Simply Explained*.