

Source Smart Choices

Distinguish original writing from borrowed words and ideas.

7.12.G “differentiate between paraphrasing and plagiarism when using source materials;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that describe paraphrasing. Circle statements that describe plagiarism or explain how to avoid it, so you can compare the two practices.

Maya Uses a Tree Report

- ① During a project about neighborhood trees, Maya reads a report from the city forestry office. One section states, “Newly planted trees need regular watering through their first two growing seasons.” Maya records the report’s title, author, date, and page number in her notes. These details help readers locate the source later. She also writes down which ideas came from the report and which thoughts are her own. A source may provide useful facts, research findings, or explanations, but writers must show where borrowed material came from.
- ② To paraphrase, Maya first understands the idea, then sets the report aside. She writes, “A new tree needs frequent water during the first two seasons it grows after planting.” Her sentence keeps the report’s meaning, but it uses a new sentence pattern and different wording. A paraphrase can be shorter or about the same length as the original. It still needs a citation because the idea and specific information came from the report. Changing a few words, switching word order, or using synonyms is not enough.
- ③ If Maya copies the report’s sentence into her project without quotation marks and a citation, she plagiarizes. Plagiarism means presenting someone else’s words or ideas as if they were your own. It can happen when a writer copies exact words, makes only small changes to a source sentence, or uses a source’s idea without credit. Quotation marks signal exact words, and a citation names the source. When Maya uses her own wording and cites the report, readers can tell which information she learned from the source.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 How does Maya's sentence about watering trees show a paraphrase rather than plagiarism? Give two details.

- 2 Why must Maya cite the report even though she did not copy its exact words?

- 3 A student writes, "Newly planted trees require regular watering through their first two growing seasons." Does this count as a paraphrase? Explain.

- 4 What two tools should a writer use when copying an exact sentence from a source?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Read this source excerpt: "Sea otters often wrap themselves in kelp while resting so they do not drift apart in the water." Write one 18-25-word paraphrase in your own words. Do not copy three or more words in a row, and add the citation (Coastal Wildlife Guide).

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements that describe paraphrasing. Circle statements that describe plagiarism or explain how to avoid it, so you can compare the two practices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya's sentence about watering trees show a paraphrase rather than plagiarism? Give two details.	It keeps the report's meaning but uses a new sentence pattern and different wording. It also needs a citation to credit the report.
2	Why must Maya cite the report even though she did not copy its exact words?	The idea and specific information came from the report.
3	A student writes, "Newly planted trees require regular watering through their first two growing seasons." Does this count as a paraphrase? Explain.	No. The student changed only one word, so the sentence is too close to the source and is plagiarism if used without quotation marks and a citation.
4	What two tools should a writer use when copying an exact sentence from a source?	Quotation marks and a citation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To avoid separating while they rest in ocean water, these marine mammals often hold kelp around their own bodies (Coastal Wildlife Guide).

Accept paraphrases that preserve the source meaning, use substantially different wording and sentence structure, stay between 18 and 25 words before the citation, and include the required citation. Do not accept responses that copy three or more words in a row from the excerpt or add unsupported details.