

# Credit the Source

Read how writers use source material honestly.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the sentence that tells what a real paraphrase requires. Then circle two actions that help a writer avoid plagiarism.

### Maya Researches a City Park

- ① When students research a local topic, source materials can include articles, interviews, maps, photographs, and data. Imagine that Maya is studying how a city park changed over time. A newspaper article says that volunteers planted 600 trees after a 2012 storm. Maya may use that information in her report, but the fact does not become her own. Readers deserve to know where she found it. Giving credit also lets readers locate the source and decide whether it is trustworthy.
- ② Paraphrasing means restating a source idea in your own words and sentence structure while keeping the meaning accurate. It is not a shortcut for swapping a few words. If Maya copies the article's sentence pattern and replaces volunteers with helpers, her writing is too close to the source. A real paraphrase might combine details, change the order of ideas, and use natural language she would normally write. Even after paraphrasing, Maya must name the article because the information came from it.
- ③ Plagiarism happens when a writer presents another person's words or ideas as if they were original. Copying a sentence without quotation marks and a citation is plagiarism. So is using a close rewrite without credit, even when the writer changes several words. A writer can avoid plagiarism by taking notes carefully, putting exact copied words in quotation marks, and recording source details. Before submitting work, Maya can compare her draft with the article. If a phrase or idea came from the article, she should quote it accurately or paraphrase it and cite the source.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Why must Maya name the article even after she paraphrases information from it?

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**2** Why is changing volunteers to helpers not a real paraphrase?

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**3** According to the passage, what two things are missing when a writer copies a sentence and commits plagiarism?

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**4** How can comparing a draft with the original article help a writer avoid plagiarism?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Source excerpt, City River Safety Guide: "After heavy rain, a river's current can become faster and stronger. Visitors should stay on marked paths and avoid the water." Write one 20 to 30 word paraphrase that restates both safety ideas and includes this citation: (City River Safety Guide). Then write a second sentence of 10 to 18 words explaining why your response avoids plagiarism.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the sentence that tells what a real paraphrase requires. Then circle two actions that help a writer avoid plagiarism. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                      | ANSWER                                                                                                    |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Why must Maya name the article even after she paraphrases information from it?                                | <b>The information came from the article, so Maya must give the source credit.</b>                        |
| 2 | Why is changing volunteers to helpers not a real paraphrase?                                                  | <b>It keeps the article's sentence pattern and changes only a few words.</b>                              |
| 3 | According to the passage, what two things are missing when a writer copies a sentence and commits plagiarism? | <b>Quotation marks and a citation.</b>                                                                    |
| 4 | How can comparing a draft with the original article help a writer avoid plagiarism?                           | <b>The writer can notice borrowed phrases or ideas and then quote or paraphrase them with a citation.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

After a storm, stay on posted paths and out of the river because its current may be unusually swift and forceful (City River Safety Guide). It uses new wording and credits the guide for the safety information.

Accept paraphrases that accurately restate both the dangerous current and the advice to stay on paths and out of the water. The response should use substantially new wording and include the required citation and explanation.