Paraphrasing...without plagiarizing

Definition

According to Merriam-Webster, paraphrasing is "a restatement of a text, passage, or work giving the meaning in another form" (Paraphrase).

What it means for you

If an author states something significant, and you would like to incorporate their idea into your paper, you have two choices: quote directly, or paraphrase.

When it comes to writing papers in the academic world, paraphrasing is more than just changing a word or two so the passage is "different" by a few words; when paraphrasing for academic writing, you need to be able to explain the concept or author's words in a completely different way.

To put it succinctly, you must change more than one or two words, and you must still give credit to the original author, even though you didn't quote their work word-for-word.

Example

Here's an example from Smith and Wesson's (2010) article describing new ways of treating opiate overdoses: "Compelling clinical evidence establishes that buprenorphine is similar to methadone in efficacy for opiate detoxification and maintenance but safer than methadone in an overdose situation" (Smith & Wesson, 2010, p. 161).

A paraphrase of this particular sentence might look like this: Methadone is often used as a treatment for opiate dependency and overdose, but can be dangerous to use in some cases. Smith and Wesson found in their study that buprenorphine can be equally affective while minimizing risk (Smith & Wesson, 2010).

References

Paraphrase. (n.d.). In *Merriam-Webster's online dictionary.* Retrieved from:
https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/paraphrase

Wesson, D. R., M.D., & Smith, D. E., M.D. (2010). Buprenorphine in the treatment of opiate dependence. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, 42*(2), 161-75. Retrieved from http://in.libproxy.gracechristian.edu/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/603210226?accountid=54847