

Journalism Style

Paraphrasing Practice and Drafting Efficient Sentences

Paraphrasing Practice

In the Chapter 7 *Journalism Style*, you learned when and how to use paraphrasing in your reporting. You may need to paraphrase direct quotations if the quotation is unsuitable for publication. Paraphrasing can help you avoid profanity, tighten language and avoid awkward asides. If your source does not speak standard English, you can avoid printing or recording language that might seem to demean someone.

Try It!

Paraphrase or quote snippets from The College Board's announced changes to the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The changes in the vocabulary portion of the test were discussed in these two paragraphs from the College Board website. Paraphrase or quote snippets to describe to your readers how the SAT will be different—that is, what it was like before and what it will be like in the future. (Use *according to*.) Try to do so in 40 words or fewer.

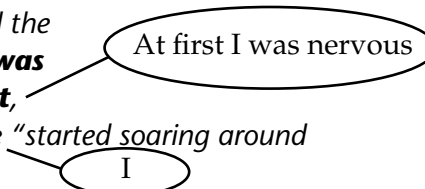
The redesigned SAT will focus on relevant words, the meanings of which depend on how they're used. Students will be asked to interpret the meaning of words based on the context of the passage in which they appear. This is demanding but rewarding work. These are words that students will use throughout their lives — in high school, college, and beyond.

Requiring students to master relevant vocabulary will change the way they prepare for the exam. No longer will students use flashcards to memorize obscure words, only to forget them the minute they put their test pencils down. The redesigned SAT will engage students in close reading and honor the best work of the classroom.

Drafting Efficient Sentences

Your sound files and notes indicate your source, Tina Tim, said this about indoor skydiving in a vertical wind tunnel: "It was exciting, and real, like, a rush. I loved it. At first I was nervous, but after a couple a turns, I started soaring around like Rocky the Flying Squirrel." Very little of this is worth your audience's time and the space on your page, so you use just part of it in your own compact, efficient sentences.

Tina Tim said the wind tunnel **was scary at first**, but **then she** "started soaring around like Rocky the Flying Squirrel."



The commas that are used to set apart the attribution (such as *she said*) when you are quoting a complete sentence are not necessary here. So, no commas if you are quoting only part of her sentence inside your complete sentence.

Try it!

Your sound files and notes indicate your source Jamal Jump disagreed with Tina. "I didn't think it was scary. 'Matter of fact, my little brother's only eight, and he loved it. I had to threaten him so he'd quit flying and get ready to leave. He didn't want to stop! He's saving his money so he can go back."

1. Paraphrase and quote the best material in this quotation from Jamal to compose the paragraph that comes next, after Tina's "flying squirrel" quotation. Embed at least one partial sentence into your own sentence. Use correct pronouns, punctuation and capitalization.
2. In a small group, read your paragraphs aloud. How does your paragraph compare to those of your classmates?