

Paraphrasing

Paraphrase -

A statement in which you express something that somebody has written or said using different words

Paraphrases should:

- Keeps the paraphrase as simple as possible
- Express the points clearly and briefly
- Changes the original grammar and vocabulary (for example - use synonyms, change verb phrases to noun phrases, change active to passive tense)
- Expresses the main ideas in your own words
- Change the order and structure of information
- Removes any unusual words

Practical guidance:

- As you study and write your notes, don't copy chunks of text directly out of the book, instead always write your study notes in your own words, and note which book or article your notes were drawn from.
- Once you have taken notes from the original source, work only from your notes - put the original article or book away.
- Check your writing against the books and articles you are using as sources. If the words you've written are too similar to the original, you should try to revise your own wording.

Task 1

Look at the paragraphs below. The two students want to refer to some of the key points made by the writer of the original text, which focuses on the interest that governments have in business enterprises.

Read the original text and compare it with the two paraphrases written by Student A and B.

Which student has produced a better paraphrase?

Original text

Governments have interests in companies for a variety of reasons. Firms provide the economic basis of the society and are both nourished and regulated by government with the intent of keeping the economy healthy enough to sustain the society and, of course, the government. Government may attempt to control the harms of business activity. In some societies, government runs the economy via central planning mechanisms and state ownership of enterprise. (Wartick and Wood, 1998, p.103)

Adapted from: <http://www.elanguages.ac.uk/teachers/SC/K2hu2x60303.htm>