

the Writing Centers at Saint Mary's

Winona and Minneapolis

APA Style: Paraphrasing Strategies

You have probably heard that paraphrasing involves putting a source in “your own words.” Adequate paraphrasing, however, involves more than just replacing words in the original with synonyms, or words that are similar in meaning to the original. Successful paraphrasing requires you to change not only the words but also the structure of the original passage. We recommend reading the passage and then putting the source away to avoid poor paraphrasing techniques (i.e., just changing every few words to a synonym).

There are several strategies that you can use to paraphrase your sources. You will need to use more than one strategy in order to avoid plagiarism. Here are six strategies:

- #1 Change word form or part of speech
- #2 Change from active to passive voice, or vice versa
- #3 Change the word order
- #4 Change from specific to general
- #5 Change transitions
- #6 Replace words in the original with synonyms

The process might take several drafts. You can see an example below:

