

Examples of Adequate Paraphrasing

“It turns out that the eastern U.S. founder crops were four plants domesticated in the period 2500-1500 B.C., a full 6,000 years after wheat and barley domestication in the Fertile Crescent. A local species of squash provided small containers, as well as yielding edible seeds. The remaining three founders were grown solely for their edible seeds (sunflower, a daisy relative called sumpweed, and a distant relative of spinach called goosefoot).” (Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* 150)

Paraphrase, with documentation in MLA format:

In the eastern part of North America, Native Americans began cultivating four plants at some point between 2500 B.C.E. and 1500 B.C.E.: a squash, sunflowers, sumpweed (related to the daisy), and goosefoot (related to spinach), all grown for their seeds (Diamond 150). The squash, in addition, was good for containers, as gourds later came to be used. This domestication occurred 6000 years later than that of wheat and barley in the Middle East (Diamond 150).

“Juan was fifty-eight, very powerfully built, deeply sunburned, looked much younger than his years. His own symptoms had come on a couple of years ago, and he noticed them first when he was writing a letter. The act of writing brought on a shaking, and within a year it was no longer possible to write, at least with his right hand. But he had no other symptoms at all.

I examined him and was puzzled by the tremor. It looked nothing like the resting (‘pill-rolling’) tremor one usually sees in parkinsonism, for it came on with action or intention (which suppress the resting tremor). Nor did it resemble the ‘intention tremor’ which one may see (with incoordination and other cerebellar signs) if there is damage in the cerebellum or its connections. It resembled instead what neurologists gaily call essential or benign tremor. ‘Essential’ because it seems to arise without any demonstrable lesion in the brain, and ‘benign’ because it is usually self-limiting, responds well to medication, and does not interfere with life too much.” (Oliver Sacks, *The Island of the Colorblind* 125-126)

Paraphrase, with documentation in MLA format:

A young-looking fifty-eight-year-old patient that Sacks examined said that he had developed a tremor two years previously, noticeable when he wrote by hand. It was his only symptom, and it puzzled Sacks because it did not seem typical of Parkinson’s Disease, which typically shows two kinds of tremor: a resting tremor or “intention tremor” that results from damage to the cerebellum. Instead, Juan’s tremor was the kind identified as “essential” or “benign” by neurologists, due to its development without any brain lesions and its treatability (Sacks 125-126).