**Paraphrasing Exercises**

#### 6 Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card, pieces of paper, Post-it, or in an electronic manner. (*Your rendition should be shorter, but it should contain all the essential elements. Some paraphrases may be as long as the original*.)
3. Jot down a few words below your paraphrase to remind you later how you envision using this material. At the top of the note card, write a key word or phrase to indicate the subject of your paraphrase.
4. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to incorporate the material into your paper.

Exercise 1

Paraphase each sentence. There may be more than one way to rewrite each one. Remenber to change vocabulary, phrases and sentence structure wherever you can.

1. Despite their massive size, elephants are known for being agile.
2. Because elephants consume up to 500 pounds of food a day, they are able to strip a forest bare in no time.
3. Over the centuries, lions have been used in art to represent power and magnificence.
4. Lions are social animals with one dominant male in each pride.
5. George Washington Carver was a dedicated teacher, in addition, he was known as a talented artist, musician, and researcher who made valuable contributions to his people and his country.
6. Archibald McLeish, known for his poetry, was appointed head of the library of congress by President Roosevelt in 1939.

Exercise 2

Read each paragraph and state the main idea in your own words. If you find the main idea stated directly in the paragraph, be sure to use the paraphrasing techniques that you practice in exercise one.

1. There is plenty of water on the earth. In fact, there is enough water in this planet for everyone to have a huge lake. The trouble is that the water is not always found in the place where is needed. In addition much of the water is polluted or salty. Because of these problems, there are many people without sufficient water.

Main idea:

1. New oil supplies need to be found to replace those that have been used up. There is a constant search for new oil fields. Oil hunters sink their wells wherever there are signs of oil. Each of these drillings costs thousands and thousands of dollars, and often there is not enough oil to make it profitable. Nevertheless, the search for new oil never ends.

Main idea:

1. Quakers, a religious group known as the Society of Friends, have always worked for human causes. Before the Civil War in the United States, they were against slavery and led the movement to help salve escape from the southern part of the United States and seek freedom in the northern part. Today, they fight hunger and disease around the globe and still aid people fleeing tyranny and war. Their beliefs are based on the principles of pacifism and simple living.

Main idea:

**Practice Exercises in Paraphrasing**

1. The twenties were the years when drinking was against the law, and the law was a bad joke because everyone knew of a local bar where liquor could be had. They were the years when organized crime ruled the cities, and the police seemed powerless to do anything against it. Classical music was forgotten while jazz spread throughout the land, and men like Bix Beiderbecke, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie became the heroes of the young. The flapper was born in the twenties, and with her bobbed hair and short skirts, she symbolized, perhaps more than anyone or anything else, America's break with the past. From Kathleen Yancey, English 102 Supplemental Guide (1989): 25.
2. Language is the main means of communication between peoples. But so many different languages have developed that language has often been a barrier rather than an aid to understanding among peoples. For many years, people have dreamed of setting up an international universal language which all people are simple and obvious. If all people spoke the same tongue, cultural and economic ties might be much closer, and good will increase between countries (Kispert, 2004).