

# Paraphrasing

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. When paraphrasing another author, students should maintain the main idea or point of the phrase using their own words, sentence structure and proper citation. The following examples of paraphrasing have been included as a guide. Avoid plagiarism because of unacceptable paraphrase. And remember, scientists generally do not use direct quotes: they paraphrase.

## Example

### Original Text

"At the moment, the evidence seems to favor an African Eve, because other genetic studies (of nuclear DNA) also point to an origin there and because that's where the earliest fossils of modern humans have been found. But wherever Eve's home was, the rival geneticists agree that she lived relatively recently, and this is what provokes anthropologists to start arguing--often with Biblical metaphors of their own."

From: Tierney, J. 1988 January 11. The Search for Adam and Eve. Newsweek, 23-25.

### Unacceptable Paraphrase (Plagiarism)

Currently, evidence points to an African Eve, since nuclear DNA studies favor the same starting point and early modern fossils of humans have been discovered there. However, no matter where Eve was from, competitive geneticists believe that she existed more recently. This makes anthropologists argue—many times with religious comparisons of their own (Tierney 1988).

### Acceptable Paraphrase

Tierney (1988) contends that both the fossil and genetic evidence suggest an "African Eve." However, a major controversy between the geneticists and the anthropologists centers around not where Eve originated, but when, with geneticists believing in a more recent date.