To quote or to paraphrase: that is the question.
Learning objectives

• Understand when to quote and when to paraphrase
• Know how to paraphrase according to the citation rules
Quoting or paraphrasing: what’s the difference?

• To quote is to copy paste a short extract of a document
  • Integrated to the text with quotation marks
• To paraphrase is to rephrase/reword with our own words an extract of a document
  • Integrated to the text without quotation marks
• Both of them are a way of citing
• Both of them need:
  • a citation in the text
  • a complete reference in the bibliography
Quoting: example

The original:

« A variety of evidence points to the existence of dark matter in the universe. As it is not directly observable with conventional astronomical techniques, we must rely on computer modules to guide our understanding » (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009).

Paraphrasing: how to?

• Understand the text we want to paraphrase
  • Try not to look at the extract to make your paraphrase

• Change the keywords
  • Use synonyms or related terms

• Change the sentences’ structure

• Compare your paraphrase and the extract
Paraphrasing: example

The original:
« A variety of evidence points to the existence of dark matter in the universe. As it is not directly observable with conventional astronomical techniques, we must rely on computer modules to guide our understanding » (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009).

The paraphrase:
Research about the universe suggests that dark matter exists. However, scientists must use computer models to learn about it because dark matter can’t be studied directly (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009).

Paraphrasing: change the keywords

The original:
- « A variety of evidence points to the existence of dark matter in the universe. As it is not directly observable with conventional astronomical techniques, we must rely on computer modules to guide our understanding » (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009).

The paraphrase:
- Research about the universe suggests that dark matter exists. However, scientists must use computer models to learn about it because dark matter can’t be studied directly (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009)

Paraphrasing: change the sentences’ structure

The original:
- « A variety of evidence points to the existence of dark matter in the universe. As it is not directly observable with conventional astronomical techniques, we must rely on computer modules to guide our understanding » (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009).

The paraphrase:
- Research about the universe suggests that dark matter exists. However, scientists must use computer models to learn about it because dark matter can’t be studied directly (Lanzel and Barnes, 2009).

Paraphrasing: why?

• To lighten the text

• But also:
  • To show your understanding of the text
  • To reword a complex idea in a simpler way
  • To summarize
Useful links


Thank you!

Next Coffee Lecture:

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**Wednesday** December 09, 2020 at 10 AM

go.epfl.ch/coffee-lectures

Contact & credits

- Anthony Hunziker
  anthony.hunziker@epfl.ch

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