

To quote or to  
paraphrase:  
that is the  
question

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# 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).
- Retrieved from: University of Guelph, 2010. « Writing Module : Paraphrasing ». <https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/paraphrase.pdf>. Accessed 23 November 2020

# 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)
  - Retrieved from: University of Guelph, 2010. « Writing Module : Paraphrasing ». <https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/paraphrase.pdf>. Accessed 23 November 2020

# 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)
  - Retrieved from: University of Guelph, 2010. « Writing Module : Paraphrasing ». <https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/paraphrase.pdf>. Accessed 23 November 2020

# 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)
  - Retrieved from: University of Guelph, 2010. « Writing Module : Paraphrasing » <https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/paraphrase.pdf>. Accessed 23 November 2020



# 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

- HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, 2011. Principles of Paraphrasing: How to Avoid Inadvertent Plagiarism in Three Easy Modules. [online]. Cambridge, Massachusetts. 2011. [Accessed 23 November 2020]. Available from: [http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~instruct/gutman\\_library/paraphrasing/module1/data/downloads/paraphrasing\\_tutorial\\_slide\\_handout.pdf](http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~instruct/gutman_library/paraphrasing/module1/data/downloads/paraphrasing_tutorial_slide_handout.pdf)
- LAB, Purdue Writing, [no date]. Paraphrasing // Purdue Writing Lab. *Purdue Writing Lab* [online]. [Accessed 23 November 2020]. Available from: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/using\\_research/quoting\\_paraphrasing\\_and\\_summarizing/paraphrasing.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/quoting_paraphrasing_and_summarizing/paraphrasing.html)
- UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, 2010. Writing Module : Paraphrasing. [online]. Guelph, Ontario. 2010. [Accessed 23 November 2020]. Available from: <https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/paraphrase.pdf>

# Thank you !

## Next Coffee Lecture:

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

[go.epfl.ch/coffee-lectures](https://go.epfl.ch/coffee-lectures)

## Contact & credits

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