

Paraphrasing Task 2: Process and Examples

Paraphrasing simply means changing the words or word order in a sentence (or phrase) while maintaining the same meaning. Learning and becoming good at doing so is very important, as we always paraphrase the topic sentence in the question for every essay type and use it as the first sentence in our own essay introduction.

Let's look at the process. Of course, not all steps need to be used for every question.

How to paraphrase

1. Use synonyms
2. Remove words
3. Add words
4. Change the word order.

Here is a task 2 essay question:

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In some countries it is now illegal to reject someone from applying for a job because of his or her age.

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

Here is the process of paraphrasing in action:

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

There are ~~some countries~~ where asking a job candidate their age on the application form is now deemed illegal.
~~In some countries it is now illegal to reject someone from applying for a job because of his or her age.~~

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Here is the completed first sentence for our introduction paragraph:

There are some countries where asking a job candidate their age on the application form is now deemed illegal.

As you can see, all four of the steps were taken:

- Removed the word In
- Added the words There are
- Removed words, added words, used synonyms and changed word order to rewrite the entire remaining part of the sentence it is now illegal to reject someone from applying for a job because of his or her age. With, where asking a job candidate their age on the application form is now deemed illegal.

Additional Examples.

Have a look at the following additional examples, and for each one, identify the paraphrasing steps taken.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programs (for example working for a charity, improving the neighborhood or teaching sports to younger children).

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

Paraphrased sentence:

There are those who believe that volunteer work should be made a mandatory part of the secondary school curriculum.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

Paraphrased sentence:

Many countries in the world are currently experiencing problems caused by rapidly growing populations in urban areas.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Nowadays, an increasing number of people with health problems are using alternative medicines and treatments instead of visiting their normal doctor.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

Paraphrased sentence:

In recent years, a rising number of individuals with health issues have begun to use alternative treatments and medicines rather than consult a doctor.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

Paraphrased sentence:

These days, more people are making the choice to go to university. While some are of the opinion that the only purpose of a university education is to improve job prospects, others think that society and individuals benefit in much broader ways.

Note: This is a more advanced example as it is a longer re-write of the topic sentence in the question. However, notice how it still accurately maintains the same meaning.

Write about the following topic:

International tourism has brought enormous benefits to many places. At the same time, there is concern about its impact on local inhabitants and the environment.

Discuss both the advantages and disadvantages regarding this topic

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

Paraphrased sentence:

International tourism is now a well-established fact of life, with both advantages and drawbacks. One of the most obvious benefits is the economic support for the holiday destinations resulting from an influx of visitors. However, as mentioned, there are also disadvantages for the local inhabitants and the environment that arise as a consequence.

This is also a more advanced example and has already introduced a reason. Again, though, it accurately maintains the same meaning.

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