



ABOUT TEXTS

PARAPHRASE



The goal of a paraphrase is to simplify the language of a text. It presents a rewording of the text that follows the same organization as the original text. It is rare that a paraphrase will be a standalone assignment; often paraphrase is incorporated in a longer work in place of a quote.

SUMMARY



Summaries tell readers **WHAT A TEXT SAYS**. They identify the most important claims, subclaims, and evidence in a text to offer readers a clear, simplified, version of the author's argument. Summaries often reorganize the ideas presented in the original text.

ANALYSIS



Analyses tell readers **HOW A TEXT WORKS**. They examine the choices made by the author (what evidence is used, how the text is organized, what tone or vocabulary, the author relies on) and they offer a theory about why the author made these choices.

CRITIQUE



Critiques tell readers **WHY A TEXT WORKS** (or doesn't). They evaluate both the argument and the way it is made and use this evidence to persuade readers that the argument is or is not compelling.

LITERATURE REVIEW



Literature Reviews **FOCUS ON TOPICS, NOT TEXTS**. They combine summary, analysis, and critique to provide readers with an overview of the scholarly conversation about a topic. Literature Reviews are often designed to highlight an error or gap in previous scholarship that the author of the review will address with their own original research.