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# PARAPHRASING

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Paraphrasing is an important part of integrating source material into a research paper. However, paraphrasing should not be confused with summarizing or quoting. The sections below elaborate on how to paraphrase effectively without making common mistakes.

## **Paraphrasing vs. Summarizing:**

It is important to note that writing a paraphrase is not the same as writing a summary. Although both methods are a restatement of a passage or idea, there are important differences. A summary condenses information while a paraphrase repeats the information in the same number of words. Included below is the original text from the fourth amendment of the Constitution, along with a summary and paraphrase of the amendment:

Amendment IV of the Constitution of the United States (Original Text):

- “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized” (U.S. Const. am. 4.)

A Summary:

- Amendment IV of the Constitution of the United States declares that authorities cannot search a person, or that person’s possessions, without a warrant or reasonable cause.

A Paraphrase:

- The United States’ Bill of Rights mandates that all persons have the right to protect themselves from an unnecessary invasion of privacy. Thus, it is unconstitutional for any government authority to search a person, or that person’s property, without a warrant based upon reasonable cause. If a warrant has been attained, it must be specific in nature and list the items being searched for and/or confiscated (U.S. Const. am. 4.).

## **Avoid Plagiarism:**

Do not mix the author’s phrases with your own without using quotations. Your paraphrase should not simply be a half-copy of the original author’s work or any attempt to use the author’s original syntax while only replacing one or two words. Additionally, all paraphrases require citation regardless of whether or not

material was directly quoted. If you choose to include specific phrasing from the original text in your paraphrase, that specific phrasing should be formatted as a direct quotation.

**Citation:**

Paraphrases should, in some way, introduce the original author and include in-text citations. For example:

- John Smith, of Dixie State University, believes that writing centers play important roles in academic communities (88).

The phrase “John Smith... believes” is used to let the reader know that the information that follows has been paraphrased. “Of Dixie State University” lends credibility to the paraphrase, while the statement thereafter is the paraphrase itself. Notice that an in-text citation is still necessary.