



3. **Avoid using the wording of the source.** Remember to use your own words when you summarize. It's a good idea to take notes from the source and use your notes to write the summary.

Example

Original: "After all, the U.S., unlike more rigid economies in Europe, has always been dynamic enough to provide steady upward mobility for workers."

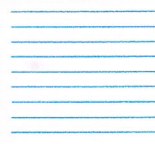
Unacceptable paraphrase: The U.S. has a dynamic economy that provides steady upward mobility for workers, unlike the more rigid economies in Europe.

This would be an unacceptable paraphrase because it uses the same sentence structure and much of the same phrasing as the original.

Acceptable paraphrase: In the United States, unlike in Europe, workers have always been able to advance.

This is an acceptable summary or paraphrase of the original writing.

Writing Assignment



Select one of the topics below to develop as a paragraph or an essay.

1. Choose an essay or chapter from one of your textbooks and write a summary that explains the main points covered.
2. Pick up a local newspaper, choose a news story, article, or editorial, and summarize its contents.
3. Choose a movie or a TV show you know well and summarize the storyline. Remember that a summary is objective, so don't include your opinion of the show.
4. Use your class notes to summarize a class or lecture you attended.
5. Do you use the Internet to get information? Choose an Internet article or Web site that you know well and summarize the contents.

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