

Overview: Paraphrasing

To paraphrase, rewrite a useful idea in your own words and style:

Do not add meaning that is not in the source.

Do not change the author's meaning.

Do not use the author's distinctive phrasings unless you put them in quotation marks.

Do not rewrite by going word-by-word and substituting synonyms.

Group Activity: Acceptable and Unacceptable Paraphrases

Original Source Material

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the richest in the country, is leading the philanthropic drive for small schools; it's committed more than \$200 million to starting new ones nationwide or restructuring large high schools into smaller schools-within-a-school.

Source: Catharine Gewertz, "The Breakup: Suburbs Try Smaller High Schools," *Education Week*

Original Source Material

Many free-speech controversies, especially on college campuses, are grounded in concerns for civility, politeness, and good taste. They also tend to follow the same path and end the same way. A government entity regulates speech in an effort to elevate discourse, limit the profane, and protect public and personal sensitivities; courts strike down regulations as violating the First Amendment freedom of speech; and we end up right where we started.

Source: Howard Wasserman, "Fan Profanity"

Original Source Material

Few issues challenge a society's ideas about the nature of human development and justice as much as serious juvenile crime.

Source: Laurence Steinberg, "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults?"

*Which examples are acceptable paraphrases of the material above?
(SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS SHEET.)*

1. According to Catharine Gewertz, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged over \$200 million to building small high schools and also to reconfiguring existing large high schools to make them "smaller schools within a school" (Gewertz).
2. According to Catharine Gewertz, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which is the wealthiest in the United States, is spearheading the charitable movement advocating small schools; the foundation has pledged more than \$200 million to starting new small schools across the country or restructuring large high schools into smaller schools within a school (Gewertz).
3. One foundation is leading the way. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is giving over \$200 million to the cause.
4. Howard M. Wasserman says that many free-speech debates, particularly ones at colleges, are based on concerns for politeness and good taste. These debates seem to take the same course, and end the same. First a government organization controls speech to raise the level of communication. Then, the judiciary condemns the regulations for violating the Constitutional guarantee of free speech. Then we end up back at the beginning. (639)
5. There is a recurring pattern to First Amendment challenges; a college government tries to create a more mannered atmosphere by setting rules to reduce instances of profanity and "protect public and personal sensitivities;" the efforts are struck down in court as a violation of free speech.
6. Howard M. Wasserman sees a recurring pattern to many First Amendment challenges. He says that when a college government tries to create a more mannered atmosphere by setting rules to reduce instances of profanity and "protect public and personal sensitivities," the efforts are struck down in court as a violation of free speech (639).
7. Steinberg believes that not very many concerns confront a social order's notions about the characters of people's growth and the legal system as much as grave crime committed by young people.
8. Steinberg believes that of all the problems facing a society, the problem of "serious juvenile crime" is among the most difficult to grapple with (602).
9. Few issues challenge a society's ideas about the natures of human development and justice as much as serious juvenile crime.