

How to Paraphrase without Plagiarizing

Proper paraphrases and summaries must do four things:

1. Accurately represent the ideas and facts in the original source.
2. Focus on main ideas in the source rather than overemphasizing minor and irrelevant details.
3. Be completely in your own words or else use quotation marks to indicate the source's words.
4. Cite the source using the author's name and page number.

Example excerpt from article "Harry Potter: From Craze to Classic?" by Lana A. Whited, p. 97

In the two years that have passed since the conference, the interest of literature professionals in Harry Potter has only accelerated. Other professional organizations, including the Modern Language Association, have devoted whole sessions to the books at their annual meetings. Despite the fact that J. K. Rowling's agent discourages books about the series, several readers' guides have been published, along with a couple of unauthorized biographies of Rowling herself and collections of children's writing in response to the series. Critical essays on the books are beginning to show up in scholarly journals. So the answer to the question of whether Harry will be taken seriously by those within the "Ivory Tower" appears to be a resounding yes.

Are the following examples of summary correct? Why or why not? Identify which of the above rules is being broken, if any.

1. According to Lana Whited, J. K. Rowling's agent discouraged her from writing a sequel to the original Harry Potter books entitled *Harry Potter and the Ivory Tower* (97).
2. Lana Whited points out that literature scholars have begun to take the Harry Potter series more seriously, and critical essays on the books are beginning to show up in scholarly journals (97).
3. Sessions on *Harry Potter* at professional conferences, books about the series, and scholarly articles on Harry and his friends are all good signs that the series will continue to gain respect as a serious subject of study for professional scholars of literature (Whited 97).
4. Despite the fact that books about the Harry Potter series are discouraged by J. K. Rowling's agent, several have been published, including a couple of unauthorized biographies of the author herself (Whited 97).