

Julius Caesar Act III, Scene 2

Paraphrasing Assignment

Paraphrasing is a very important skill. It is useful in many ways in many different subject areas. It allows you to more or less translate the important ideas of a passage into your own language. Effective paraphrasing allows you to more fully understand material and more seamlessly meld sources together into a coherent whole. Effective paraphrasing also helps you to avoid some of the pitfalls of plagiarizing. Your job is to carefully read each of the passages below from Act III Scene 1 of *Julius Caesar*. Then you are to do two things with each:

- a. Paraphrase it: this means to translate all parts of the passage into your own language
- b. Explain the significance of each passage to the play

1. Lines 12-35
2. Lines 37-48
3. Lines 75-109
4. Lines 120-136
5. Lines 171-199
6. Lines 212-233

Here are some pointers on how to paraphrase effectively:

1. Do not try to translate word to word or even sentence to sentence. Go idea to idea. Try to discern the most important ideas in the passage, and then restate them in your own words.
2. Do not get hung up on words or even phrases you do not understand. Again, look for the major ideas.
3. Use the notes in the margin to help you if they are available.

NOTE: Paraphrasing is not the same as summarizing though they have similarities:

- a. Both translate other sources into your own language and both focus on major ideas
- b. While a summary shortens by hitting just the main ideas, paraphrasing does not shorten the original text because no ideas are omitted.