Inquiry Process: Paraphrasing

## Good and Poor Examples of Paraphrasing

This handout should be used with the activity called “**Compete with Identifying Good/Bad Paraphrases and Quotes”** in the Note Taking lesson plan. Each of the examples below contains an excerpt from the original text followed by 2 paragraphs. The ones on the left are poor examples. This means that they contain either improper methods for quoting or paraphrasing text, hence are plagiarized, or they do not have the same meaning as the original. The paragraphs on the right are the good examples. They contain proper methods for quoting or paraphrasing text, MLA in-text citation for crediting the author(s), and/or have kept the original meaning.

Print and cut out the good and poor examples. Give groups a copy of the original text and one of the good or poor paragraphs. They will need to determine if their example is a good or poor example of paraphrasing and quoting text.

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"NASA - What Is Antarctica?." *NASA*. N.p., 27 Feb. 2008. Web. 24 July 2013. <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/what-is-antarctica-58.html>.

*Original Text*

Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. The average temperature in Antarctica in the winter is minus 34.4 Celcius (minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit). The temperature in the center of Antarctica is much lower than the temperature on the coasts. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Antarctica was minus 89.4 C (minus 129 F). The highest temperature ever recorded in Antarctica was 15 C (59 F).

Antarctica has just two seasons: summer and winter. Antarctica has six months of daylight in its summer and six months of darkness in its winter.

Antarctica is considered a desert because it receives very little rain or snowfall. The small amount of snow that does fall does not melt but builds up over hundreds and thousands of years to form large, thick ice sheets. Antarctica's terrain is made up of glaciers, ice shelves and icebergs. Antarctica has no trees or bushes. The only plants that can survive the extreme cold are lichens, mosses and algae.

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| Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. “The average temperature in Antarctica in the winter is minus 34.4 Celcius”. It is considered a desert. There is no rain or snowfall, and no trees or bushes. Antarctica's terrain is made up of glaciers, ice shelves and icebergs. | NASA has declared, “Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth”. In fact, the average temperate is minus 34.4 Celsius. The coldest temperature ever recorded was minus 89.4 C! (para 1). Antarctica’s summer is 6 months of sun, and in the winter there are 6 months of darkness (para 2). Antarctica’s land is covered in ice. It gets little rain or snow. Only lichens, mosses, and algae can grow in this environment. (para 3). |

Hitt, David. "NASA - What Is a Helicopter?." *NASA*. N.p., 16 Nov. 2010. Web. 24 July 2013. <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/what-is-a-helicopter-58.html>.

*Original Text*

A helicopter's rotors allow it to do things an airplane cannot. Unlike an airplane, a helicopter does not have to move quickly through the air to have lift. That fact means it can move straight up or down. Most airplanes cannot do this. A helicopter can take off or land without a runway. It can turn in the air in ways airplanes cannot. Unlike an airplane, a helicopter can fly backwards or sideways. It also can hover in one spot in the air without moving. This makes helicopters ideal for things an airplane cannot do. For example, a helicopter can pick someone with a medical problem up where there is no runway. It can then land in a small area on top of a hospital.

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| A helicopter can do all of the things that a plane can and more! Airplanes have to move quickly to fly but a helicopter can go anywhere it wants: up, down, left, right, or stay in one spot. Because helicopters are better than airplanes, hospitals use them to pick people up when there is an emergency. | The rotors of a helicopter distinguish it from how airplanes are able to fly. Helicopters can move up, down, sideways, backwards, and even hover in midair. As airplanes are unable to do this, helicopters can be used for a variety of things that airplanes are unable to do such as land on the roof of a hospital to pick up someone with a medical problem (Hitt). |

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Stillman, Dan. "NASA - What Is Earth?." *NASA*. N.p., 19 Jan. 2011. Web. 24 July 2013. <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/what-is-earth-58.html>.

*Original Text*

At all times, half of Earth is lighted by the sun and half is in darkness. Areas facing toward the sun experience daytime. Areas facing away from the sun experience nighttime. As the planet spins, most places on Earth cycle through day and night once every 24 hours. The North Pole and South Pole have continuous daylight or darkness depending on the time of year.

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| Earth is always half in the sun and half in the dark because the planet spins. No matter where you are in the world, you will cycle through day and night once every 24 hours. During the day you are facing towards the sun. “Areas facing away from the sun experience nighttime.” This is all true except for the North and South poles (http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/what-is-earth-58.html). | At any given moment, Earth is half covered in sunlight while the other half is in darkness. The half that is covered in sunlight is experiencing daytime while the half that is in darkness is experiencing nighttime. Dan Stillman from NASA states “most places on Earth cycle through day and night once every 24 hours”. The exception being the North Pole and South Pole as they have either continuous sunlight or darkness depending on the time of the year. |

Public Safety Canada. *Your Emergency Preparedness Guide*. Ottawa: Public Service Commission, 2012. Print.

*Original Text*

Evacuation Plan

Authorities will not ask you to leave your home unless they have reason to believe that you may be in danger. If you are ordered to evacuate, take your emergency kit, your wallet, personal identification for each family member and copies of essential family documents with you. Bring a cellular phone and spare battery or charger with you, if you have one.

Use travel routes specified by local authorities. If you have time, call or email your out-of-town contact. Tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive. Once you are safe, let them know. Tell them if any family members have become separated. If possible, leave a note telling others when you left and where you are.

Shut off water and electricity if officials tell you to do so.

Quoting…

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| If you are ordered to evacuate, take your “emergency kit, personal identification for each family member and copies of essential family documents” with you. (Public Safety Canada). | Authorities state that “If you are ordered to evacuate, take your emergency kit, your wallet, personal identification for each family member and copies of essential family documents with you.” (Public Safety Canada 14) |

Paraphrasing…

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| When evacuating, households may use the authorized travel routes. They should also try to call out of town contacts to tell them where they are going and when they expect to arrive. | The Public Safety Canada states that when a household is ordered to evacuate, prior to leaving they should communicate their whereabouts and travel plans with an out of town contact, and they must use the designated travel routes. |