Paraphrasing tips

Learn:

• What makes a good paraphrase?
• What are the steps to paraphrasing?
• What are ‘reporting verbs’ and what role do they play?
Compare the two paraphrased versions of this original text.
Which is better and why?

1. Quinn (2011, p. 9) argues that video games could be used within both educational and home environments to promote physical activity.

2. Quinn (2011, p. 9) argues that video games might be positively valid as a physical activity difference in the house as well as in the study environment.

The writer has replaced the original words with synonyms only, and so the sentence does not make sense.

The writer should have paraphrased at the ‘ideas’ level.
Paraphrasing

For the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences

Take notes in your own words:
- Synonyms
- Word forms
- Word order
- Sentence structure

But, avoid changing the meaning.

Hint:
- Paraphrase at the ‘ideas’ level
  - Avoid imitating the words used (replacing words with synonyms only)
  - Focus on what the sentence is about.
Compare these three paraphrases. How do they differ?

1. Quinn (2011, p. 9) **argues** that video games could promote physical activity within the school and home environments.

2. Quinn (2011, p. 9) **claims** that video games could promote physical activity within the school and home environments.

3. Quinn (2011, p. 9) **suggests** that video games could promote physical activity within the school and home environments.

Different reporting verbs present different ideas

Reporting verbs can be used to express your interpretations, opinions or judgements (i.e. shows what you **think** about what you have read)

For more examples of ‘reporting verbs’, visit: [www.unisa.edu.au/L3](http://www.unisa.edu.au/L3)