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### Insider's Guide to Studying

Students of all ages can hone their study skills with these tips that teachers wished they knew when they were students.

#### **Tip 4: Paraphrasing**

Paraphrasing. It means: summarize, **re-word**, interpret, translate, and/or restate. It's a key study skill.

When it comes to studying, paraphrasing is the **opposite of memorizing**. That's because it helps students *make sense* of the material. It helps students to understand, which, when it comes to learning and studying is crucial!

Scenario: it's study time. The books are cracked open, and you've got a pen and paper ready to go. You're in the process of making study notes. You've created some mnemonic devices to remember lists and you're in the process of creating a fake test.

But how do you turn the act of **making study notes** into **actual studying**? That's where paraphrasing comes in.

It's a simple five-step process:

1. Grab your textbook or notebook and **Read** a passage.
2. **Cover** the passage with a book or a piece of paper.
3. **Recite** what you've just read using your own words (paraphrase)—don't look! No cheating!
4. **Check**. Re-read and check that what you're reciting is accurate.
5. **Repeat**. Keep reading, reciting, and checking until you've got it 100% right.

Bonus Tip:

If you're having trouble putting it in your own words, imagine that somebody is asking you this question "*what does that mean?*" Try to answer that question in your own words. You can also try using, "*in other words*" before you paraphrase.