Why paraphrase?

- To understand something you’ve read better
- To help you convey the idea in source material more to your readers
- To clarify a short passage that might be unclear or that is necessary for you to include in your paper
Tips for Writing Paraphrases

1) Paraphrase only passages or parts of passages that are key to your purpose.

2) Put the source’s ideas into your own words (using your own style and word order).

3) Be true to the meaning of the original.

4) Do not add to the source material when writing your paraphrase.

5) Quote only sparingly (if at all).

6) Use tags to keep reminding your reader you’re paraphrasing.

7) Keep revising to be certain you have not copied the words or the construction of a sentence.
How much do I paraphrase?

- Probably never more than a paragraph
- Usually just a few sentences to give background or context to something specific you want to quote and discuss at length
How long should my paraphrase be?

- At least as long as the original
- Follow the sequence of the original’s ideas and capture all of them
Is this acceptable?

• **Original:**
  “What is unmistakably convincing and makes Miller’s theatre writing hold is its authenticity in respect to the minutiae of American life. He is a first-rate reporter: he makes the details of his observation palpable.”

• **Paraphrase:**
  What is truly convincing and helps Arthur Miller’s theatrical creations effective is their authenticity. He is an excellent reporter and he creates observations acceptable.
What would you do?

- **Original:**
  "What is unmistakably convincing and makes Miller’s theatre writing hold is its authenticity in respect to the minutiae of American life. He is a first-rate reporter: he makes the details of his observation palpable."

- **Paraphrase**
  Complete your own using the original material.
Now, take out a reading you are working on and pick a passage that seems really important (No longer than a paragraph)

Write out a paraphrase (completely in your own words), staying true to the original passage

How might you use this paraphrase in your paper?