PARAPHRASING

Explanation:

Paraphrasing is a very important academic writing skill. It involves presenting the ideas and information you have read into your own words. Paraphrasing shows that you have understood and are able to convey meaning – it is not simply taking what someone else has written and changing a few words to make it your own. Instead, you are re-shaping original text to fit your own line of interpretation.

When you paraphrase, you must change the words and their order so they are no longer similar to the original. For example, look at the extract from a website that talks about remix theory:

> Generally speaking, remix culture can be defined as the global activity consisting of the creative and efficient exchange of information made possible by digital technologies that is supported by the practice of cut/copy and paste (Navas, 2012).

Now look at this paraphrase of the above passage:
> The activity referred to as remix consists of the creative and efficient exchange of information made possible by digital technologies that is supported by the practice of cut/copy and paste (Navas, 2012).

This paraphrase would be considered too close to the original, and would be deemed plagiarism despite the correct referencing. This is because it's not enough to simply change a few words and/or turn sentences around, as the author does here, because you will still be copying the way the original author expressed their ideas.

The paraphrase below, however, is much better**:**

> Remix culture has developed out of the cut/copy and paste practices of digital technology, which have allowed users to develop a range of creative engagements with information (Navas, 2012).

Other resources:

What is acceptable paraphrasing?
 Academic Integrity Module, University of South Australia
http://resource.unisa.edu.au/mod/book/view.php?id=72184&chapterid=30479

Paraphrasing and summarizing
Language and Learning Online, Monash University
http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/writing/information-technology/sources/2.5.3.xml

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