

# Paraphrasing — Vincent van Gogh

Paraphrasing is restating published writing in your own words. It can be shorter or longer than the original writing. To paraphrase:

1. Identify the main idea
2. Change the words and word order
3. Change the structure of the paragraph
4. Write about it in a different way

**Be careful not to plagiarize.** Plagiarism is stealing someone else's writing and passing it off as yours without giving credit to them.

## Paraphrase this passage on Vincent van Gogh.

*Use the back of this page if you need more room.*

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) was born more than 150 years ago in the Netherlands. He had many jobs, such as a teacher and working in a book store and an art gallery. In 1880, his brother convinced him to paint full time. When painting, Van Gogh often used dark colors and used loose brush strokes. In 1885 Van Gogh went to Belgium where he saw art from Japan which used bright colors. This art influenced his style. In 1886 he moved to Paris and met the artists Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Paul Gauguin. In Paris, he discovered a style called impressionism and adopted the use of color and light and a technique called pointillism, where paint is applied in small dots. Van Gogh is regarded as a post-impressionist. In 1888 he left Paris and went to Arles, a country town in France. For awhile he was happy, but unfortunately he soon developed mental problems. He was known for cutting off part of his left ear and giving it to a woman. In 1889 he entered a mental institution. While there he began painting in thick striped and swirly patterns. This was where he created his famous masterpiece, The Starry Night, which interestingly, has all the stars in the correct spot in the sky. In 1890, Van Gogh committed suicide. He was 37 years old. During his life, he created over 2000 paintings and drawings, but sold only one.

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