

Paraphrasing — Rosa Parks

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 Rosa Parks.

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

Rosa Parks (1913-2005) is known as “The Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement.” Rosa Parks was an African-American woman who refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger. She was arrested for breaking segregation laws, and her arrest began a boycott of city buses that lasted 381 days. This led to the Supreme Court ruling in 1956 making segregation illegal on public buses. Her brave act would inspire many others to take a stand against unfair segregation laws. Rosa Parks was born in Alabama and grew up on a small farm. During her childhood she was frightened by the Ku Klux Klan (a white supremacist group) riding at night, and was afraid they would burn down her house. She attended a school for African-American children that was open only five months a year and went up to sixth grade. She married a civil rights activist named Raymond Parks. With her husband's support, Rosa graduated from high school in 1934. Together, they worked for the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Rosa Parks continued the fight for equal rights her whole life. She has received hundreds of awards, including the Medal of Freedom Award from President Clinton.
