

Paraphrasing — Photosynthesis

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 photosynthesis.

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

Photosynthesis is the cycle by which plants make their own energy. This is a complex biochemical process where the energy of sunlight is converted into chemical energy, or food. Most plants don’t get food by eating other organisms like animals do. They make their own food, in the form of glucose (sugar). This sugar is made from carbon dioxide and water. Carbon dioxide is taken in through the leaves, and water is taken in through the roots. Sunlight provides the energy that causes a reaction and creates the glucose that plants need to survive. Oxygen is actually a waste product from this reaction, and it is released into the environment for animals and humans to breathe. In green plants and algae, the pigment molecules that initially absorb the sun’s energy are called chlorophyll. Keep in mind that photosynthesis is a very complex process. But it can be understood with a simplified equation: Carbon dioxide, plus water, plus light, yields oxygen, plus sugar. In animals, this equation is reversed: oxygen, plus sugar, yields carbon dioxide, plus water, plus energy.
