**Paraphrasing Practice Activity #2**

Read the following excerpts from readings you have already done in your reading class or for this class. Practice using the chunking method to paraphrase each excerpt by marking each chunk (use \*\* between chunks), explaining the meaning, and writing a paraphrase using those explanations. Don’t forget to make sure you meet all three criteria for a good paraphrase.

*You will be graded on the following: (1) marking your chunks, (2) explaining each chunk, (3) if your paraphrase meets the three criteria, and (4) grammar of your paraphrase.*

Steps for Chunking:

1. Identify the main idea of the original sentence. What is the sentence about? Can you form a question based on the sentence? What is the sentence trying to explain?
2. Break the sentence into small, meaningful chunks
3. Explain the meaning of each chunk
4. Combine your explanations into a complete sentence.
5. Check your paraphrase to make sure it meets the 3 criteria for a paraphrase.

**EXAMPLE:**

Original: Often procrastination stems from a real or imagined fear or worry that is focused not so much on the thing you are avoiding, but its potential consequences.

Main idea: What causes procrastination?

Sentence chunks: Often procrastination stems from a real or imagined fear or worry \*\* that is focused not so much on the thing you are avoiding, \*\* but its potential consequences.

Explain each chunk

1. Fear causes people to procrastinate
2. Fear is not of the activity itself
3. The results of the activity

Possible Paraphrase:

1. People usually procrastinate because they are afraid of the results of an activity, not the activity itself (Moore, 1997).
2. Moore (1997) states that worrying about the results of an activity is what often causes people to procrastinate.
3. People don’t procrastinate because they are afraid of the activity, but rather the results of that activity.

Source for 1 & 2: Erika Eby, 2012

1. “Unlike essays, which are often based largely on opinion and are written from the author’s point of view, research papers are based in fact.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

1. “If you ever pause for a moment and find yourself wondering whether you need to use a citation for a piece of information or section of your paper, assume the answer is yes.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

Source for 3 & 4: Beatrice S. Mikulecky & Linda Jeffries, 2007

1. “Advances in computer technology have made it possible for researchers to analyze thousands of English-language texts containing millions of words.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

1. “In fact, these 2,000 most frequent words account for almost 80% of most texts. If you know these words, you have a much better chance of understanding what you read.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

Source for 5: J.J. Macionis, 1998

1. “He found her in her county home, where local authorities has taken her. Davis was appalled by the sight of the emaciated child, who could not laugh, speak, or even smile.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

Source for 6 -8: S.I. Hayakawa, 1939

1. “It is widely believed that every word has a correct meaning, that we learn these meanings principally from teachers and grammarians…, and that dictionaries and grammars are the supreme authority in matters of meaning and usage.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

1. “The task of writing a dictionary begins with the reading of vast amounts of the literature of the period or subject that the dictionary is to cover.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase:

1. “The writing of a dictionary, therefore, is not a task of setting up authoritative statements about the ‘true meanings’ of words, but a task of *recording*, to the best of one’s ability, what various words have meant to authors in the distant or immediate past.”

Main idea or purpose of the sentence:

Explanation of Chunks:

Paraphrase: