

Creating Note Cards

There are three ways to pull information from the text: using a direct quote, paraphrasing by putting the information in your own words, or summarizing and condensing the information. The three samples below were all created from the same piece of text. Notice the difference between the three different kinds.

A. Write the main idea of the card, so you don't have to read the whole card to know the subject matter.

B. Write the information from the source here.

C. Write how you're using the source: Direct Quote, Paraphrase, or Summary.

Direct Quote A:

Early Ideas - Italy and Sicily

"The vividly fictional characteristics of the story have not prevented critics, past and present, from seeking to place it in a specific geographic context. Hesiod, who wrote later than Homer, believed that Odysseus and his ships sailed around in the general area of Italy and Sicily, to the west of..."

D. Each source gets its own letter, so that you don't have to write the title of the source on every notecard. That way, every notecard from one place has the same letter here.

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E. Write the page number so you can find it again if you need it.

Paraphrasing is rewording a direct quote in a different way, so that it becomes your own. Changing a word or two, or rearranging the order of the words, is not enough to make it your own. Be careful when you change the wording to your own that you do not change the author's meaning or lose anything in the translation.

Early Ideas - Italy and Sicily

Paraphrase A:

Although The Odyssey includes many fantastic creatures and events, people throughout history have tried to identify a real setting for the tale. Hesiod, a writer who came after Homer, thought that Odysseus' journey took him around Italy and Sicily.

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Early Ideas - Italy and Sicily

Summary A:

The early writer Hesiod believed that The Odyssey took place near Italy and Sicily.

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A **Summary** relays only the main points of a passage. It should be shorter than the actual text because it omits details and inessential materials. It only tells an overview of what the original author says.