

Learning Task

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The following passage was taken from a published research article about the rhetorical purposes of the introduction of research articles:

“At the outset, the writer of an introduction has the option of trying to establish that his or her particular area of research is of some significance”.

The authors are John Swales and Hazem Najjar. The article was published in 1987. The passage is located on page 179.

I used a GAI application to paraphrase the passage for me using different prompts. Examine the output I obtained with each prompt:

	Rationale	Prompt	ChatGPT Output
1	<p>I wanted to say the same thing with different words, without reducing the length of the text.</p> <p>I also noticed that the authors were using “he or she” making the text look binary¹.</p> <p>I prefer to use gender neutral expressions.</p>	<p>Paraphrase this sentence making it gender neutral: "At the outset, the writer of an introduction has the option of trying to establish that his or her particular area of research is of some significance" and cite the authors: Swales & Najjar, 1987, p. 179.</p>	<p>"At the beginning, the author of an introduction can attempt to demonstrate the significance of their specific research field" (Swales & Najjar, 1987, p. 179).</p>
2	<p>I noticed that ChatGPT had used singular and plural to make the text non-binary (gender neutral). That is acceptable, but I prefer keeping all the noun-related words in plural form.</p>	<p>Paraphrase again using plural instead of singular nouns</p>	<p>"At the beginning, authors of introductions have the opportunity to demonstrate the significance of their respective research fields" (Swales & Najjar, 1987, p. 179).</p>
3	<p>I observed that ChatGPT had used APA in-text citation. I wanted to use a different system.</p>	<p>Paraphrase again using the Modern Language Association citation system</p>	<p>"In the initial stages, authors of introductions are presented with the chance to underscore the importance of their distinct areas of research" (Swales and Najjar 179).</p>
4	<p>I was curious what ChatGPT would do if asked to change the level of formality of the paraphrase.</p>	<p>Paraphrase again making language more appropriate for a wider audience.</p>	<p>"At the start, writers of introductions have a chance to show why their research topics matter" (Swales and Najjar 179).</p>
5	<p>I tried a third citation system that would require more work from the writer.</p>	<p>Paraphrase again using the Chicago style with footnotes</p>	<p>"At the beginning, authors of introductory sections can highlight the relevance of their research areas."¹</p> <p>1. Swales and Najjar, 179.</p>

¹ A binary representation of human gender experience excludes individuals who identified as gender fluid. Writing in ways that are inclusive requires using neutral personal pronoun such as “they”.

Observe that the AI modified the wording of certain phrases in each version produced in this exercise.

For instance, in the source passage, the authors situate the reader on a specific point of a RA introduction by using the expression “at the outset”. The GAI substituted this phrase with three options:

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- At the beginning
 - In the initial stages
 - At the start
1. If you were writing this paraphrase, which one of these options would you prefer and why?
 2. Identify what words/phrases the AI used to paraphrase the following original fragments from the text:
 - “has the option of”
 - “establish that”
 - “particular area of research is of some significance”
 3. Which of the five GAI-generated paraphrased texts presents the highest number of **grammatical shifts** similar to the ones we have studied in this course²? Highlight these changes.
 4. What can you learn from the language transformations generated using ChatGPT?
 5. What ethical and practical considerations should you take into account if you plan on using GAI applications to enhance your paraphrasing skills?

² For example, changes from active voice to passive voice, nominalizations, denominalizations (changes from the nominal style to the verbal style), or synonym substitutions.