

# Quote, paraphrase, summary Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the following article. Then write a summary, a paraphrase, and choose one quote that you might use when writing a paper about this topic.**

## **Character analysis: Professor Snape in Harry Potter**

By Elton Gahr

All too often characters in books, and especially children's books are either pure good or pure evil, but the truth is that the real world is full of shades of gray. There are a number of characters in the Harry Potter series that fill this role but the character who is the most gray is Professor Snape. A character whose loyalties are questioned throughout the series and there is evidence both to say he can be trusted and that he is a death eater. This type of complexity is something that is rarely found in any story let alone one written for children.

Before he was Professor Snape the character was a student at Hogwarts at the same time as Harry Potter's parents. A great deal of what is learned about Harry Potters parents, and almost everything negative is discovered through this character who was bullied by Harry's father and loved Harry's mother.

During the first war Snape was a death eater who worked with lord Voldomert. The exact nature of what he did in that war is not entirely clear. What is clear is that Dumbledore and the other members of the order of the Phoenix now trust him. In fact the only one who does not seem to trust him is Harry Potter.

Throughout the series Professor Snape is a teacher at Hogwarts. He is the potions teacher though what he wants to teach is defense against the dark arts, but for some reason Dumbledore is unwilling to allow him to teach that class. Dumbledore knows that the position is cursed and there is some evidence that it is.

Perhaps the most interesting trait of Professor Snape is that he immediately dislikes Harry Potter, and he never really warms to the boy. This is something that is very important because there are a lot of kids who face this problem. Having a teacher who simply does not like them and it is a real struggle for those kids. This character brings out an extremely important point for those kids. That point is that these teachers are people who have their own struggles and pains and they are not always going to be perfect.

Professor Snape is one of the most important characters in the Harry Potter series and also one of the most human which makes him a great and interesting character.

***What are the differences among quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing?***

These three ways of incorporating other writers' work into your own writing differ according to the closeness of your writing to the source writing.

**Quotations** must be identical to the original, using a narrow segment of the source. They must match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author.

**Paraphrasing** involves putting a passage from source material into your own words. A paraphrase must also be attributed to the original source. Paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage, taking a somewhat broader segment of the source and condensing it slightly.

**Summarizing** involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s). Once again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to the original source.

Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material. When writing a summary, consider answering *Who? What? Where? When? Why?*

***Why use quotations, paraphrases, and summaries?***

Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries serve many purposes. You might use them to . . .

- Provide support for claims or add credibility to your writing
- Refer to work that leads up to the work you are now doing
- Give examples of several points of view on a subject
- Call attention to a position that you wish to agree or disagree with
- Highlight a particularly striking phrase, sentence, or passage by quoting the original
- Distance yourself from the original by quoting it in order to cue readers that the words are not your own
- Expand the breadth or depth of your writing

Writers frequently intertwine summaries, paraphrases, and quotations. As part of a summary of an article, a chapter, or a book, a writer might include paraphrases of various key points blended with quotations of striking or suggestive phrases as in the following example:

Paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Select one quote: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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