Comparing Paraphrase and Summary

Paraphrase	Summary
Reports your understanding to your reader.	Reports your understanding to your reader.
• Records a relatively short passage.	Records a passage of any length.
 Records every point in the passage. 	Selects and condenses, recording only the main ideas.
Records these points consecutively.	May change the order of ideas, when necessary.
Includes no interpretation.	May include some interpretation, depending on the purpose of the summary.
A paraphrase must be accurate.	A summary is comprehensive.
A paraphrase must be complete.	A summary is concise.
A paraphrase must be written in your own words.	A summary is coherent.
A paraphrase must make sense by itself.	A summary is independent.

A general rule of thumb is that a summary is roughly 25% the length of the original.

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