



Guide to Remixing a Speech (*Secondary*)

1. Review the Context of the Speech

Find out what was going on. Who is speaking? Why are they speaking? What is going on in historical context? Think of the five Ws (Who, What, Why, When and Where)

2. Vocabulary Review

Read over the speech and highlight any words you don't know. Look them up or use context clues to figure out their meaning.

3. Remix the Speech

Remixing is another word for *paraphrasing*. Paraphrasing is a technique that you can use to make difficult language more familiar. To paraphrase something means to put it into your own words.

Paraphrase one sentence at a time. If you have a long sentence, make sure you understand its structure: find your main subject and verb, as well as any parenthetical phrases, and go over the syntax (the way in which the words are arranged). If you get stuck, try doing a word-for-word substitute until you understand what the sentence is saying!

Paraphrase Example of Canastego's "We Will Make Men of Them"

Original Text: We know that you highly esteem the kind of learning taught in those colleges, and that the maintenance of our young men, while with you, would be very expensive to you. We are convinced, therefore, that you mean to do us good by your proposal, and we thank you heartily. But you who are wise must know that different nations have different conceptions of things; and you will therefore not take it amiss if our ideas of this kind of education happen not to be the same with yours.

Paraphrase: We get that you really value the type of education taught in these schools, and that the care of our boys, while they are with you, would be really pricey for you. We believe, because of that, that you intend to do us a solid with your offer, and we truly thank you. But, being a smart group of people, you have to understand that different

cultures have different ideas about stuff, and you won't take it as a dis if our thoughts about this type of learning don't line up with yours.

4. Find the Operative Words

For each sentence, pick the operative word. The operative word is the most important word in the sentence. It gets to the heart of the message. As you find the words, keep a running list of them.

Operative Word Example of Canastego's "We Will Make Men of Them"

1. Learning: The entire speech is about how men should be educated.
2. Good: Canastego is trying to focus on the colonists' desire for good for the Native Americans.
3. Different: Here he notes that their definitions of good education are different.

5. Most Important Word

Look at your operative word list. Pick one that you think sums up the entire speech.

Most Important Word Example of Canastego's "We Will Make Men of Them"

Different: The focus of the speech is how Canastego and the colonists see the education differently through their different cultures.