Georgia Performance Standards Framework for ELA Unit 5-8th Grade

Grade: 8
Topic: Paraphrasing
Instructional unit: Research/Technical Writing

The task:
The purpose of paraphrasing is gleaning key important information from large chunks of text. Students should understand that it is important to select or focus only on vital information rather than extraneous details. In doing so, they must learn to protect the integrity of the text by knowing when to provide due credit.

The teacher will provide the class with a relevant article that contains multiple paragraphs. The teacher should number the paragraphs and assign each paragraph of the article. In groups, the students will be assigned the task of paraphrasing their assigned section into one sentence. Each group will write this one sentence on chart paper; all sentences together should convey the essence of the article. If the sentences do not, the teacher should discuss what is missing in order to create an effective paraphrase. After discussion, the teacher should have the students repeat the activity with articles of varied content (e.g., technical article—a “how to,” biographical article, textbook, etc.).

Ultimately, the students should apply the skill in their own research and reading when working on the final performance task.

Differentiation:
1. Provide an article with the key concepts underlined in each paragraph, and provide the summary sentence for each paragraph
2. Provide an article with key concepts underlined; ask the student to write a summary sentence for each paragraph

Focus Standard:
ELA8W3 The student uses research and technology to support writing. The student
c. Avoids plagiarism.

ELA8W2 The student demonstrates competence in a variety of genres.
The student produces a piece of writing drawn from research that:
e. Records important ideas, concepts, and direct quotations from significant information sources, and paraphrases and summarizes all perspectives on the topic, as appropriate.

Circumstances of the assignment/Notes to the Teachers:
The teacher should have chart paper for the activity.

This activity is designed to be completed before the students complete the assignment on Research Note cards.