

EVI-STYLE PARAPHRASE TRAPS

How small changes in wording can completely change meaning

Quick rule: do not strengthen, narrow, or exaggerate the original statement.
Watch especially for scope, certainty, quantity, and comparison words.

1. SCOPE / LIMITATION

Original: The tool is particularly useful for remote workers.

TRAP The tool is useful only for remote workers.

WHY? particularly means “especially”, not “exclusively”.

SAFE remote workers benefit a lot, but other users may benefit too.

2. CERTAINTY / MODALITY

Original: The update may improve system performance.

TRAP The update will definitely improve performance.

WHY? may expresses possibility; will definitely expresses certainty.

SAFE improvement is possible, but it is not guaranteed.

3. QUANTITY

Original: Few employees reported technical problems.

TRAP No employees experienced technical problems.

WHY? few means a small number; none means zero.

SAFE some employees reported problems, but not many.

4. COMPARISON

Original: The new software is considerably more efficient than the previous version.

TRAP The previous version was completely inefficient.

WHY? a comparison shows relative superiority, not zero value in the weaker option.

SAFE the new version performs better; the old one may still have been useful.

Before choosing a paraphrase, ask:

Same scope? Same certainty? Same quantity? Same comparison? No extra information?