

**How would you evaluate these anonymous samples?**

**Original text:** “The system that the elite colleges and universities developed to evaluate the best and the brightest is now the template for what counts as ideal child rearing in America. Perhaps no single college president or dean of admissions fully realized that the development of clear measures of youthful accomplishment — standardized test scores and high school GPAs, athletic team win records, counts of AP classes and titles and formal accolades of all sorts — would in time transform the organization and culture of bourgeois childhood, would make it more competitive, more expensive, more structured around the production of demonstrated accomplishment, and, perhaps more consequential for the ideal of meritocracy, even more difficult for families of modest means to emulate.”

Full citation: Mitchell L. Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites* (Harvard University Press, 2009), p. 247.

**Part 5: Properly paraphrase** any portion of the original text by restating the author’s ideas in your own diction and style, supplemented with a *direct quotation of a key phrase*, plus a citation the original source.

**Sample X:** The presidents of the colleges and the deans in the admission offices underrate the power they have; the power can transform “the organization and culture of bourgeois childhood”.

**Sample Y:** The sizeable influence that admission to college is having on how parents raise their children is undeniable. Author Mitchell Stevens argues that it “is now the template for what counts as ideal child rearing in America” (Stevens).

**Sample Z:** Stevens said that the system that elite universities established to evaluate the best students is now the guideline for what counts as ideal child rearing in America. The new definition of youthful accomplishment “— standardized test scores and high school GPAs, athletic team win records, counts of AP classes and titles and formal accolades of all sorts —”(Stevens, 2009) has had a great impact on middle-class students. It made them more competitive, pricier and essentially their life’s now revolve around meritocracy, making it harder for working families to keep up with the pace of the other ones.

**Instructor's comments:**

Sample X: The presidents of the colleges and the deans in the admission offices underrate the power they have; the power can transform “the organization and culture of bourgeois childhood”.

Jack Dougherty 9/23/13 11:00 AM

**Comment [1]:** This is not correct, because a proper paraphrasing (with or without a direct quote) requires a citation to the original text, which is missing here.

Sample Y: The sizeable influence that admission to college is having on how parents raise their children is undeniable. Author Mitchell Stevens argues that it “ is now the template for what counts as ideal child rearing in America” (Stevens).

Jack Dougherty 9/23/13 11:03 AM

**Comment [2]:** The correct MLA citation for a specific reference includes the page number, like this:  
... are being raised (Stevens 247).

Sample Z: Stevens said that the system that elite universities established to evaluate the best students is now the guideline for what counts as ideal child rearing in America. The new definition of youthful accomplishment “— standardized test scores and high school GPAs, athletic team win records, counts of AP classes and titles and formal accolades of all sorts —”(Stevens, 2009) has had a great impact on middle-class students. It made them more competitive, pricier and essentially their life’s now revolve around meritocracy, making it harder for working families to keep up with the pace of the other ones.

Jack Dougherty 9/23/13 10:54 AM

**Comment [3]:** Incorrect. This half of the sentence comes directly from the original text, and therefore paraphrases it too closely. Technically, this is plagiarism.