

**Title:** The Paraphrase Project: exploring how students write from sources

**Abstract:** Much published advice for students on how to utilise source texts exhorts them to read the text carefully, make notes, then set the original aside while writing a paraphrase or summary. The assumption is that the source text, the notes and the written output are physically separate (e.g. hard copy book, handwritten notes, typed essay). Our observation is that many students tend to paste the source text into an electronic document and paraphrase directly from the original, using word-processing and online tools to assist the activity. This gives rise to several questions, of which our project seeks to address two:

- How do students paraphrase source texts when writing on a computer, and what software tools do they use?
- Is there any difference in quality between a paraphrase written by hand and one composed on a computer?

In this workshop we will share and invite discussion on some of the preliminary findings from our study.

**Carol Bailey**  
Senior Lecturer in English for Academic Purposes  
University of Wolverhampton

**Jodi Withers**  
Lecturer in Academic Skills, Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Wolverhampton