



## Student Tool: Paraphrasing in Oral Discourse

Adapted from Jeff Zwiers Conversation Skills Poster retrieved from <http://www.jeffzwiers.org/tools-resources.html> on 3/17/15.

### What is paraphrasing and why is it important?

**Definition:** To say what your partner said in different words.

**Purpose:** To check for a common understanding or to repeat someone else's ideas

### When should you paraphrase in a conversation?

If someone asks you...(prompt)

- Does that make sense?
- Do you know what I mean?
- Do you understand?
- I'm not sure that was clear.
- What are you hearing?

You can respond using the sentence starters...(response)

- What I heard you say is...
- So, you are saying that...
- In other words...
- Let me see if I understand you...

### Example of paraphrasing in oral discourse

**Partner 1:** I think it is important to ask for help when I am confused because if I don't, my teacher won't know that I am not understanding what she is saying. Does that make sense?

**Partner 2:** What I heard you say is that, if your teacher doesn't know you are confused she will not be able to help you.