

Name _____ Date _____ Days/ Time _____

Basic Skills: Paraphrase, Summary, Outline

Note: Refer to the “Examples” of summary and paraphrase that are on e-reserves if you have difficulty with this assignment.

Original Passage:

When boys have trouble with a math problem, they are more likely to think that a problem is hard but stay with it. When girls have trouble, they think they are stupid and tend to give up. This difference in attribution speaks to girls' precipitous decline in math. Girls need to be encouraged to persevere in the face of difficulty, to calm down and believe in themselves. They need permission to take their time and to make many mistakes before solving the problem. They need to learn relaxation skills to deal with the math anxiety so many experience.

“Academic Selves” by Mary Pipher.

I. Paraphrase: Match the number of each paraphrase to descriptions of the paraphrases (A, B, or C) below after reading the original passage, above. (34%).

100. When boys have trouble with math, they are more likely to think that the problem is hard but they stick with it. Girls think that they are stupid and give up. This difference in attribution speaks to girls' declining in math. They need to be encouraged to keep going to face difficulty, to calm down and believe in their own self esteem. They need permission to take time to make mistakes and to learn relaxation techniques to deal with the anxiety so many of them experience.

200. Boys tend to persist in math problem-solving but girls tend to quit, thinking they lack intelligence. Statistics show that girls' math skills decline and perhaps this tendency to stop trying is why. Girls should be encouraged to keep working, to become confident, and to know that making errors is part of the learning process. They should also relax when they have anxious moments doing math.

300. Boys and girls are different in math skills. Boys have confidence and girls are anxious and feel dumb. Girls should simply learn it is okay to make mistakes and should calm down.

- _____ A. This is the best paraphrase because it is comprehensive, uses original wording, and captures the author's meaning.
- _____ B. This paraphrase is a poor example because it repeats much of the author's original language and goes beyond the author's meaning.
- _____ C. This paraphrase leaves out some of the author's supporting details. It covers her main ideas well, as for a summary.

(Paraphrase and Summary—Basic Skills, cont.)**2. Summary: Circle the letter of the best summary for the original passage. (33%).**

A. Girls' math problem solving skills often decline, perhaps because they lack confidence that boys have and believe they are stupid. Girls could be taught to relax and to persist in problem solving, learning that making mistakes is acceptable.

B. Girls think they are stupid and this explains their decline in math scores. Boys are confident. Girls cannot relax and don't like making mistakes.

C. Mary Pipher says that girls and boys differ in math and she explains that this is because girls think they are stupid, even though boys may keep working on math problems. Her message for girls is "Don't give up on yourself. Get some help! Relax. It is okay to make mistakes, girls." Young not fair since they really aren't any stupider than boys.

3. Outline: Write the main idea and the supporting details of the original paragraph in your own words in the format of an outline, below. (33%)

I. The main idea is (12%):

A. The first supporting detail of the main idea is (7%)

B. The second supporting detail of the main idea is (7%)

C. The third supporting detail of the main idea is (7%)
