



Avoiding Plagiarism

Adapted from Purdue OWL's
“Understanding and Avoiding
Plagiarism”

[OWL](#)

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Respond to this quotation by freewriting for 3 minutes.

“There is much difference between imitating a man and counterfeiting him.”

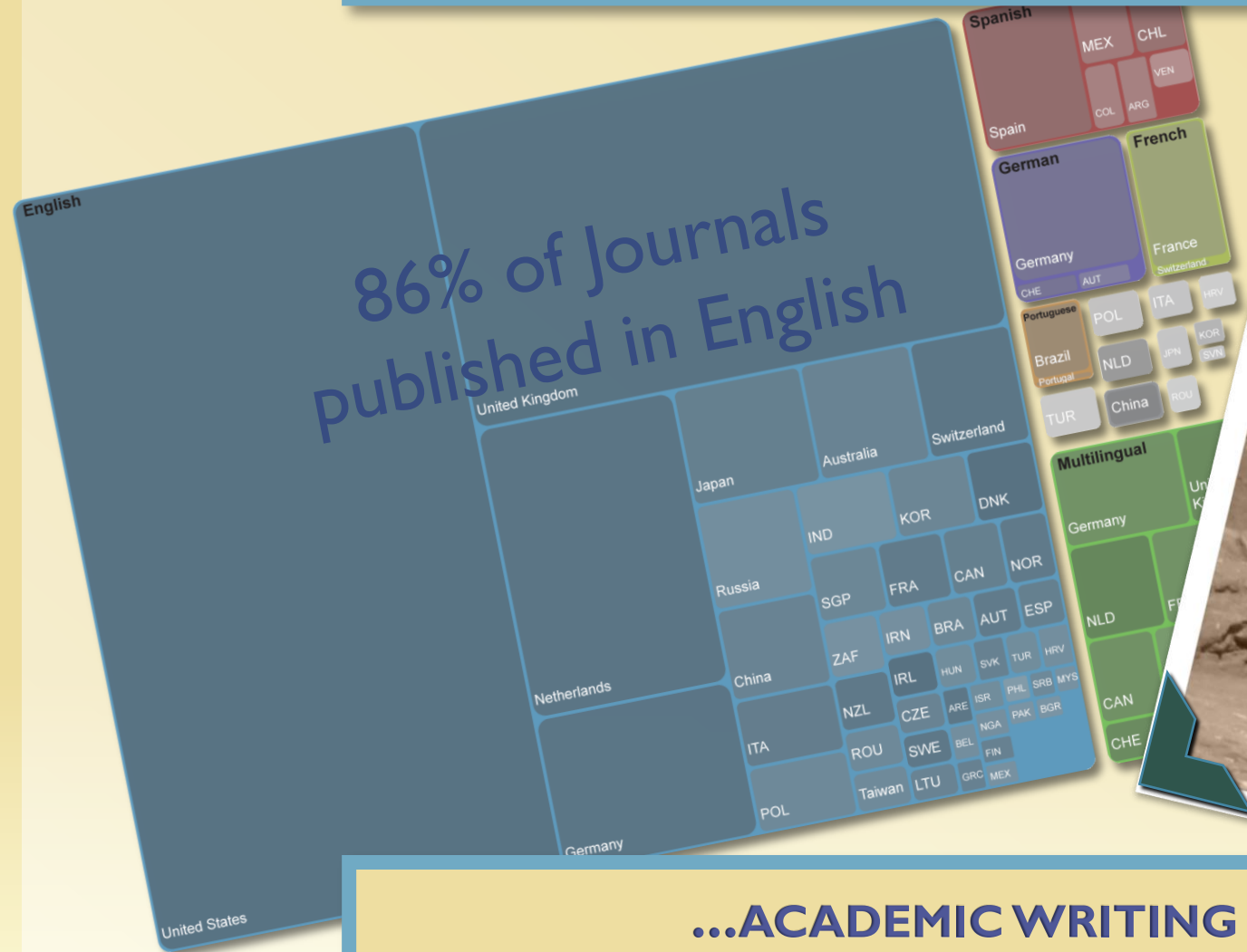
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) American statesman, scientist and philosopher.



Academic
Writing in
the
International
Community

IF ENGLISH IS A **GATEKEEPER** TO ACADEMIA...

86% of Journals
published in English



...ACADEMIC WRITING IS THE **KEY**.



BUT, TERMS AND PROCESSES IN ACADEMIC WRITING...



...CAN BE CONFUSING.

Elements of Academic Writing

- Essential link between reading/writing
(Conversation – **They** say, I say)
- Reading → Content (topic) & models
- Writing → Clear relationship between
writer/source

Contribute original ideas and research.

Present writer's original ideas as distinct from, but relevant to, others' ideas.

Clearly reference the words and ideas of others, using both in-text and full citation, in the style appropriate to the field.



WHAT ARE OUR REAL GOALS?

Contribute original ideas and research.

Relationship between writer and source.

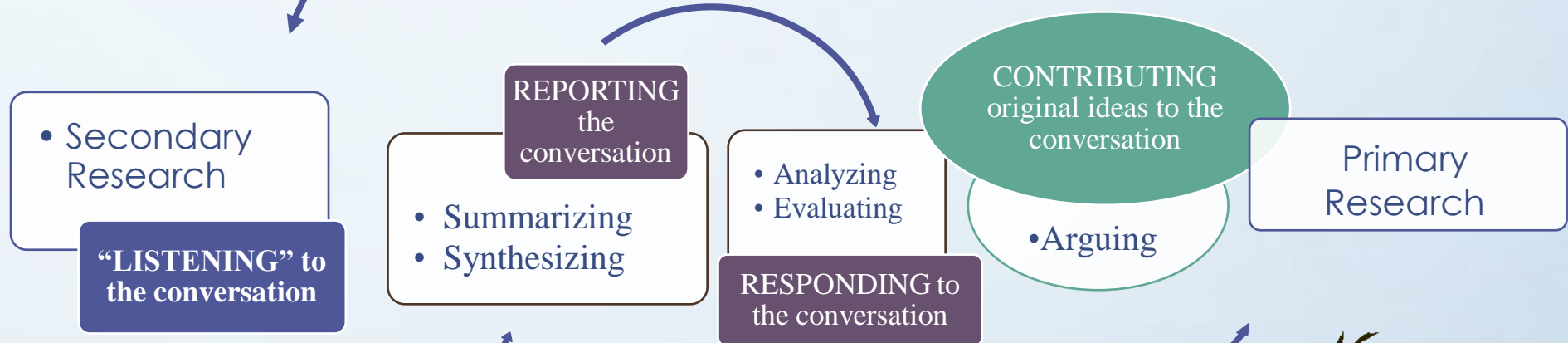
writer's original ideas as distinct but relevant to, others' ideas.

Clearly reference the words and ideas of others, using both in-text and full citation, in the style appropriate to the field.

THE IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTIC?



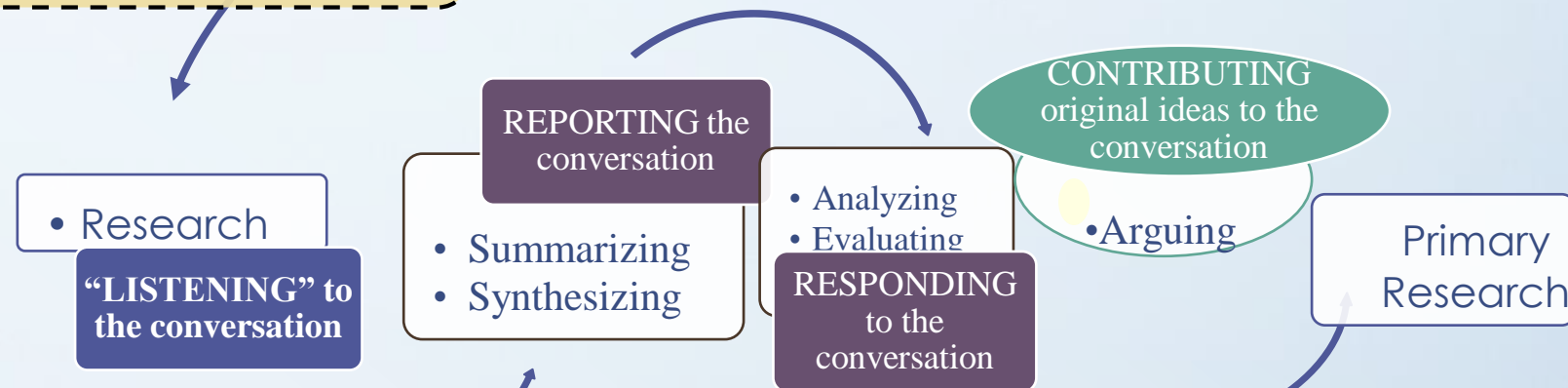
Joining the Conversation: *Writing as Discourse*



ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION.



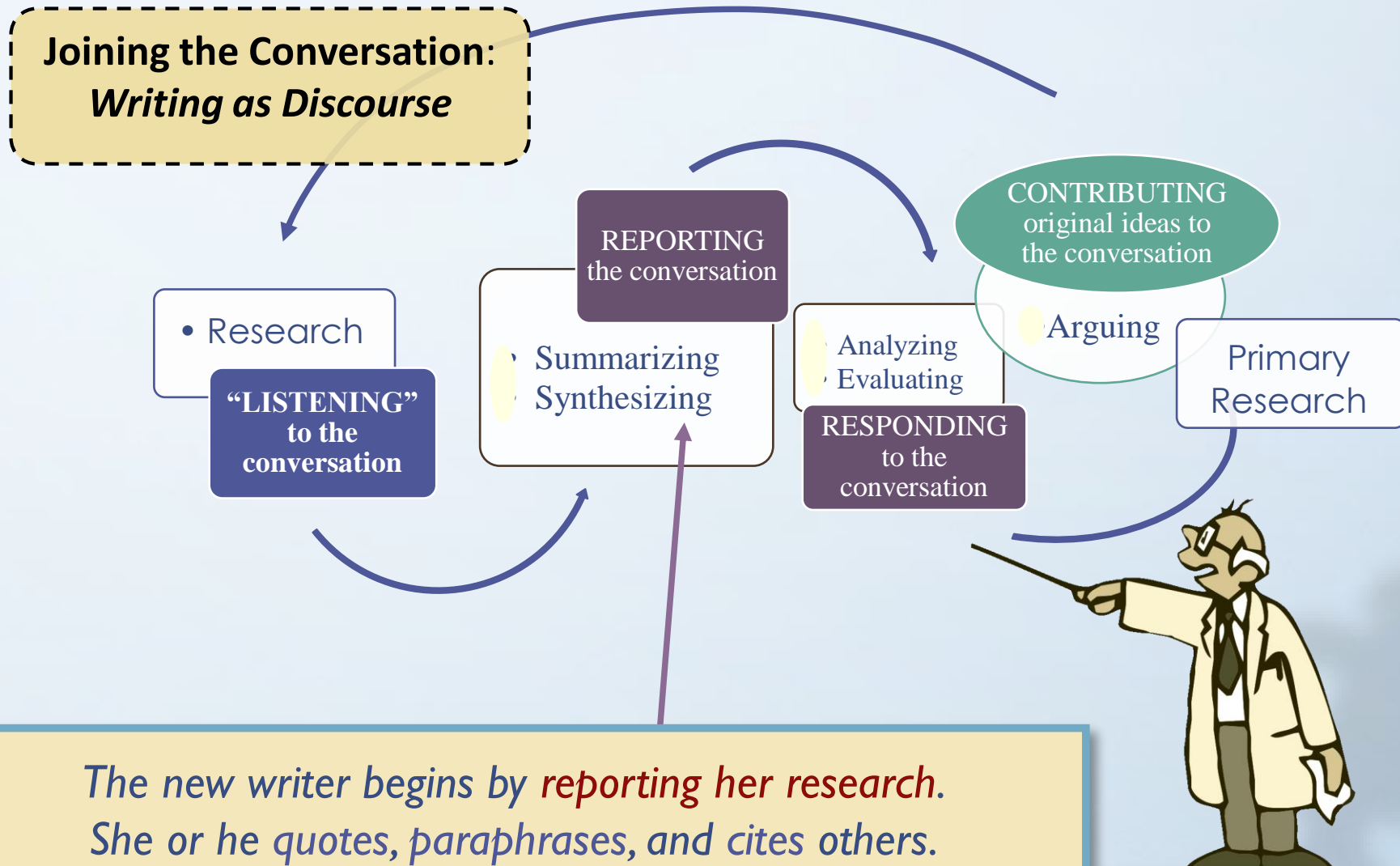
**Joining the Conversation:
*Writing as Discourse***



*Before entering the conversation, a writer “listens” to what others are saying through **research**.*

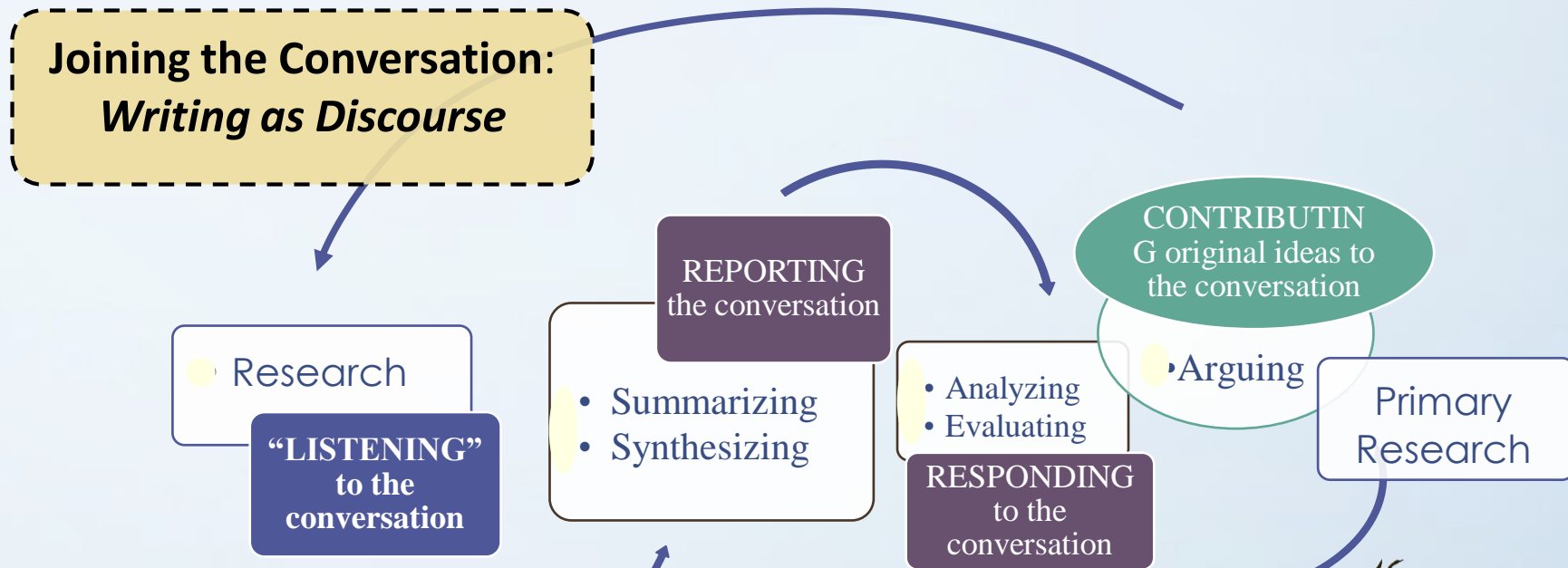
ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION.





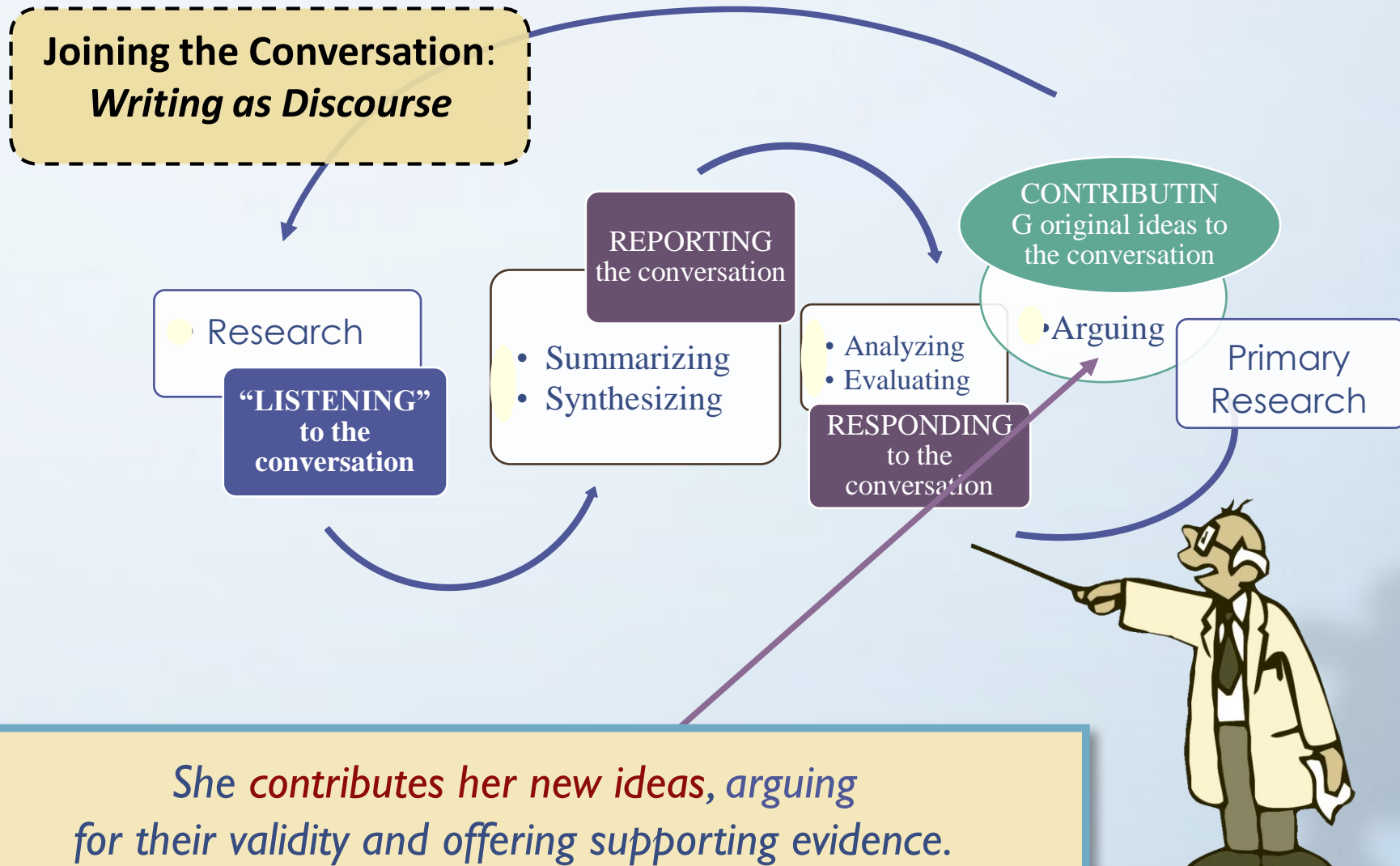
The new writer begins by *reporting her research*.
She or he quotes, paraphrases, and cites others.

ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION.



She *responds* to the ideas of others
by analyzing or evaluating them.

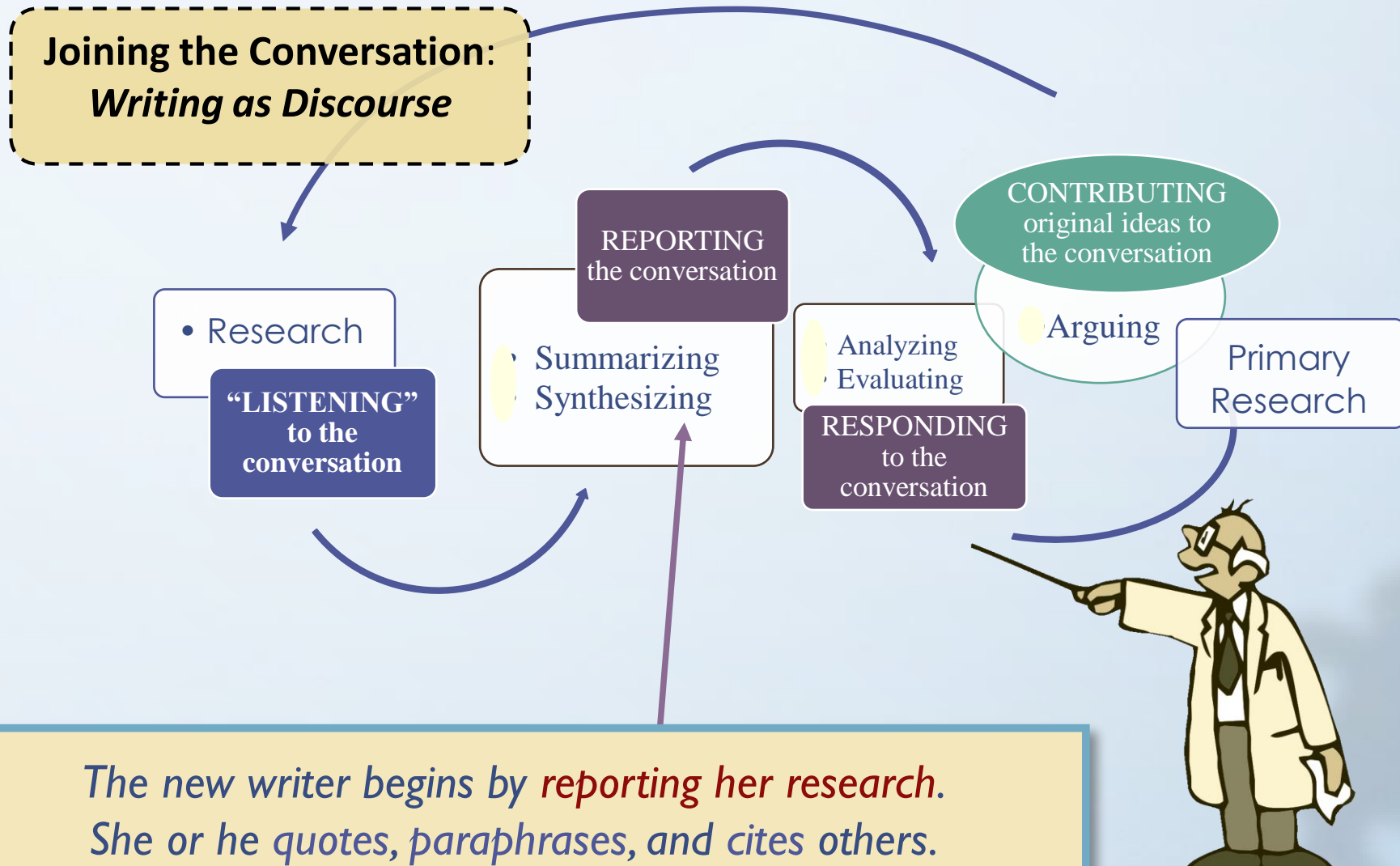
ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION.



She *contributes her new ideas*, arguing
for their validity and offering supporting evidence.

ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION.

So where does
plagiarism happen in
this process?



The new writer begins by *reporting her research*.
She or he quotes, paraphrases, and cites others.

ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION.

Definition

- Plagiarism is the “uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas” –Purdue OWL

or

- It's not clearly reporting the “they say” part of the conversation so as to distinguish it from the “I say” part.

Underlying Beliefs

- **Individual** people have the right to **own** text and ideas.
- Clarity in the **relevance and distinction** in other's and your ideas is critical.
- **Creativity** is more important than simply recalling or recycling information.
- The learning **process** is just as important as the **product**.

How to Avoid Plagiarism When Using Outside Work

- Use Quotations
- Paraphrase
- Summarize
- Cite

Two Kinds of Plagiarism

- Building on someone's ideas without directly citing him or her. Using information from an outside source without citing the source (telling where you got the information).
- Using source words too closely when paraphrasing. Even when you cite your source, if your paraphrase or summary is too similar to the original, you are guilty of plagiarism.

*Avoid this by properly paraphrasing, summarizing and giving credit to sources.

When to Cite

- Words or ideas presented in a magazine, book, newspaper, song, TV program, movie, Web page, computer program, letter, advertisement, or any other medium
- Information you gain through interviewing or conversing with another person, face to face, over the phone, or in writing
- Summaries, paraphrases or quotes (the exact words or a unique phrase) of someone else's work (idea and words)
- Reprints of any diagrams, illustrations, charts, pictures, or other visual materials
- Reuses or reposts of any electronically-available media, including images, audio, video, or other media

When **Not** to Cite

- Writing your own lived experiences, your own observations and insights, your own thoughts, and your own conclusions about a subject
- When you are writing up your own research results
- When you use your own artwork, digital photographs, video, etc.
- When you are using "common knowledge," things like folklore, common sense observations, myths, urban legends, and historical events (but **not** historical documents)
- When you are using generally-accepted facts, e.g., pollution is bad for the environment, or "writing is a process"

Quotation

Quotations must be identical to the original, using a narrow segment of the source. They must match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author.

Paraphrase

Paraphrasing involves putting a passage from source material into your own words. A paraphrase must also be attributed to the original source. Paraphrased material is usually a little shorter than the original passage, taking a somewhat broader segment of the source and condensing it slightly.

Summary

Summarizing involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s). Once again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to the original source. Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material.

Purpose of Paraphrase

- Your own rendition of essential information and ideas expressed by someone else, presented in a new form.
- One legitimate way (when accompanied by accurate documentation) to borrow from a source.
- A more detailed restatement than a summary, which focuses concisely on a single main idea.

Value of Paraphrase

- It is better than quoting information from an undistinguished passage.
- It helps you control the temptation to quote too much.
- The mental process required for successful paraphrasing helps you to understand the full meaning of the original.

How and When to Paraphrase

- Use to **report** other's ideas that **support** your own ideas.
- **Connect** it to your ideas.
- Rewrite the author's meaning in **your own words**.
- Include **all** or almost all of the ideas that are in the original.
- **Change the sentence structure** and substitute **synonyms** where possible to avoid plagiarizing.
- **Change the order** if it doesn't change meaning.
- **Cite** in text and at end of paper.

Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

Step 1: Read the original passage several times until you understand it fully. Look up **unfamiliar** words, and find synonyms for them. It may not be possible to find synonyms for every word, especially technical vocabulary. In this case, use the original word. Add quotes if necessary for essential phrases.

Step 2: It helps to take notes. Write down only a few words for each idea not complete sentences.

Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

Step 3: Write your paraphrase from your notes. Don't look at the original while you are writing.

Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phrase you have borrowed exactly from the source.

Step 4: Check your paraphrase against the original to make sure you have not copied vocabulary or the sentence structure too closely. Above all, make sure that you have not changed the meaning of the original or given any wrong information.

Step 5: Add an in-text citation at the end.

Let's Examine

Language is the main means of communication between people. But so many different languages have developed that language has often been a barrier rather than an aid to understanding among peoples. For many years, people have dreamed of setting up an international universal language which all people could speak and understand. The arguments in favor of a universal language are simple and obvious. If all peoples spoke the same tongue, cultural and economic ties might be much closer, and good will might increase between countries (Kispert).

Notes for Effective Paraphrasing

Here are one writer's notes on the original passage about universal language:

language - people use to communicate

but so many - difficult to understand one another

people wish – “universal international language”

reasons: cultural, economic bonds, better feelings

between countries

Outline for Effective Paraphrasing

It may be helpful to make a brief outline such as the following:

A. Language-people use to communicate

1. So many languages make it difficult to understand one another.
2. People wish for one universal international language.

B. Reasons

1. Cultural, economic bonds
2. Better feelings between countries

Let's Examine

Language is the main means of communication between people.

Humans communicate through language.

Let's Examine

But so many different languages have developed that language has often been a barrier rather than an aid to understanding among peoples.

Because there are so many different languages, people around the world have a difficult time understanding one another.

Let's Examine

For many years, people have dreamed of setting up an international universal language which all people could speak and understand.

Some people have wished for a universal international language that speakers all over the world could understand.

Let's Examine

The arguments *in favor of a universal language* are simple and obvious.

The reasons are straightforward and clear.

Let's Examine

If all peoples spoke the same tongue, (then) cultural and economic ties might be much closer, and good will might increase between countries (Kispert).

A universal language would build cultural and economic bonds. It would also create better feelings among countries (Kispert).

Let's Examine

Source: Page 16 of an article in the October 15, 2003, issue of Space Science magazine. The title of the article is "Manned Mars Flight: Impossible Dream?" The author is Patrick Clinton, a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) physician.

Living aboard a space station in orbit around Earth for months at a time poses problems for astronauts' bodies as well as for their minds.

1. An article in Space Science magazine reports that lengthy space station duty may lead to physical and mental problems for astronauts (Clinton 16).
2. An article in Space Science magazine reports that astronauts who live aboard space stations for long periods of time may experience physical as well as mental problems.
3. An article in Space Science reports that living in a space station orbiting Earth for a long time can cause difficulties for astronauts' bodies and minds (Clinton 16)
4. An article in Space Science reports that astronauts will become physically sick and have mental problems if they visit a space station (Clinton 16).

One major problem is maintaining astronauts' physical health. Medical treatment may be days or even weeks away, as there may not be a doctor on board. Illnesses such as appendicitis or ulcers, routinely treated on Earth, could be fatal in space because of the delay in getting to a doctor.

1. NASA physician Patrick Clinton states that one problem is astronauts' physical health. With no doctor on board, common illnesses like appendicitis and ulcers could be fatal to astronauts because it would take too long to get them back to Earth.
2. NASA physician Patrick Clinton states that keeping the astronauts physically healthy is one problem. If the crew does not include a doctor, the delay in getting treatment for an ordinary illness, such as appendicitis or ulcers, could mean death (16).

One major problem is maintaining astronauts' physical health. Medical treatment may be days or even weeks away, as there may not be a doctor on board. Illnesses such as appendicitis or ulcers, routinely treated on Earth, could be fatal in space because of the delay in getting to a doctor.

3. NASA physician Patrick Clinton states that the physical health of astronauts is a huge problem. Spaceships do not usually have medical doctors among the crew, so astronauts who get appendicitis on a long space journey will die (16).

4. NASA physician Patrick Clinton states that one big problem is keeping astronauts in good physical health. Medical treatment might take days or weeks to get because there may not be a doctor on the spaceship. Ordinary illnesses such as appendicitis and ulcers could be deadly because it would take too long to get to a doctor (16).

Let's Practice

Find a paragraph from an article

Paraphrase (63 words, about the same as the original)

Humans communicate through language. Because there are so many different languages, however, people around the world have a difficult time understanding one another. Some people have wished for a universal international language that speakers all over the world could understand. Their reasons are straightforward and clear. A universal language would build cultural and economic bonds. It would also create better feelings among countries (Kispert).

Summary (28 words, much shorter)

People communicate through language; however, having different languages creates communication barriers. A universal language could bring countries together culturally and economically as well as increase good feelings among them (Kispert).

Resources

- [Social Science Research Writing](#)