Comparing Paraphrase and Summary

Paraphrase	Summary
• Reports your understanding to your reader.	• Reports your understanding to your reader.
• Records a relatively short passage.	• Records a passage of any length.
• Records every point in the passage.	• Selects and condenses, recording only the main ideas.
• Records these points consecutively.	• May change the order of ideas, when necessary.
• Includes no interpretation.	• May include some interpretation, depending on the purpose of the summary.
A paraphrase must be accurate.	A summary is comprehensive.
A paraphrase must be complete.	A summary is concise.
A paraphrase must be written in your own words.	A summary is coherent.
A paraphrase must make sense by itself.	A summary is independent.

A general rule of thumb is that a summary is roughly 25% the length of the original.