

Brandon's version:

The Conquistadors were astonished by what they saw in Tenochtitlan. The city was bigger than Paris, and it boasted wide streets, busy markets, and beautiful buildings. Huge causeways had been built for easy access to the mainland, and aqueducts brought fresh water into the city. In addition to these marvels, Cortez and his soldiers discovered things that were unheard of in Europe, including botanical gardens and sanitary living conditions maintained by public workers (Mann 140).

Alex's version:

Cortez and his men were amazed by Tenochtitlan. It was bigger than Paris, Europe's largest metropolis. The Spaniards were awed by its wide streets, ornately carved buildings, and markets with goods from hundreds of miles away. Three causeways connected the city to the mainland, and long aqueducts brought water from faraway mountains. The Conquistadors were also astounded by the botanical gardens, which did not exist in Europe, as well as the group of 1,000 men who kept the streets clean (Mann 140).

When comparing Alex's and Brandon's paraphrasing, notice that Alex repeated many of the words of the original, using synonyms or slightly different forms: connected/linked, brought/conveyed, astounded/astounding. Alex's paraphrase also repeats exact phrases like "wide streets, ornately carved buildings, and markets" and "It was bigger than Paris, Europe's largest metropolis."

Practice

After reviewing the rules, try paraphrasing the following paragraph about the Botocudo, a group of South American Indians, from page 152 of the same book.

Original:

The Botocudo were an indigenous group that lived a few hundred miles north of what is now Rio de Janeiro. (The name comes from *botoque*, the derogatory Portuguese term for the big wooden discs that the Botocudo inserted in their lower lips and earlobes, distending them outward.) Although apparently never numerous, they resisted conquest so successfully that in 1801 the Portuguese colonial government formally launched a "just war against the cannibalistic Botocudo." There followed a century of intermittent strife, which slowly drove the Botocudo to extinction.