The following are examples of Directed Paraphrasing prompts from several different disciplines.

**From Gerontological Nursing (Nursing)**

In one or two sentences, paraphrase what you have learned about hospice care to inform a dying, but still lucid, patient of its possible advantages over hospital or home care.

**From Database Systems (Computer Science)**

In plain language and in less than five minutes, paraphrase what you have read about computer viruses—such as the Michelangelo virus—for a vice president of a large insurance firm who is ultimately responsible for database security. Your aim is to convince her to spend time and money “revaccinating” thousands of workstations.

**From Science in the Secondary Schools (Education)**

First, in no more than two or three sentences, paraphrase the “punctuated equilibrium” theory of evolution advanced by Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould. Direct your paraphrase to a veteran science teacher who has taught the “modern synthesis” view for years and has never heard of this more recent theory. Next, write a paraphrase of the same theory but for a very different audience. Paraphrase “punctuated equilibrium” in two or three sentences for a bright seventh grader who knows a lot about dinosaurs but little about evolutionary theory.

**From Managing Community Relations (Criminal Justice)**

Imagine that you are the city’s deputy police commissioner in charge of community relations and public affairs. For a two-minute presentation at a meeting of the police officers’ union, paraphrase the arguments in favor of creating a civilian review board. Then, for an equally short statement at the next public meeting of the city council, paraphrase the arguments against creating a civilian review board.

**From Small-Business Finance (Business/Management)**

Imagine that you have just been invited to give a talk to a group of local small-business owners on specific ways in which proposed changes in the state tax code may affect them. Paraphrase, in one or two sentences, the proposed changes that are most likely to affect this audience.