Examples of Paraphrasing

Below are four quotes taken from the story prompt I sent out last week. Below each direct quote, I have given an example of how it might be paraphrased. There are many ways to paraphrase a quote, but there are a couple important guidelines for ALL paraphrases:

1) A paraphrase is in the THIRD person, not the first person. All the “I,” “we,” “me” and “us” references need to be changed to he/she/they/them/her/him references.
2) A paraphrase DOES NOT have quotation marks. You are taking it out of the quotation.
3) Paraphrasing is conveying the same information in different words. You can summarize what they said, or shorten it with their words, or say it in a different way, but you are not using the exact same sentence they said.
4) Paraphrases must be attributed. You should use “said” or “added” or “according to” for all paraphrases.

PARAPHRASE: Maxwell Habbit, the junior who ran for the school board position, said the position seemed a natural choice since he’s always been fascinated with politics and government and hopes to become an elected official one day.

ALTERNATE PARAPHRASE: The position was natural for Maxwell Habbit, the junior who ran for the school board slot, because he hopes to become an elected official one day after graduating college.

ALTERNATE PARAPHRASE: Maxwell Habbit has always been fascinated with politics and government. That's why this junior felt the school board position was natural for him; he even hopes to be an elected official later in life.

PARAPHRASE: Max was definitely the right person for the job, according to junior Bridget Vallefuoco, his campaign manager. She said he’s passionate about student rights and is possibly the only student who attends school board meetings regularly.

ALTERNATE PARAPHRASE: Bridget Vallefuoco, Maxwell’s campaign manager, doesn’t think any other students attend school board meetings as regularly as Maxwell. He’s very knowledgeable about the board and passionate about student rights, Vallefuoco said.
MAXWELL HABBIT, Junior

but I admit I was skeptical that I would be elected. I ran against a cheerleader, a varsity football player, the junior class president and three other popular students. I am not the most popular guy in school, more of a geek really. I’m in the chess club and take all advanced courses. I am 5’11” and weigh 110 pounds — not exactly the athletic stud. I wasn’t sure whether the students would vote on knowledge or popularity. Luckily, knowledge won.

PARAPHRASE: Running against a cheerleader, football player and junior class president meant the competition was tough, Habbit said. At 5’11” and 110 pounds, Habbit said he’s more of a geek than an athlete but the students voted for knowledge instead of popularity.

ALTERNATE PARAPHRASE: Habbit is more of a geek than a popular or athletic student, he said. According to him, it wasn’t clear if students would vote for popularity or knowledge, but they went for knowledge.

ASHLYNN WAGNER, Junior

“Max beat me, and I didn’t think he would even be a competitor when I first signed up. In fact, I wasn’t sure I knew who he was. Honestly, though, he was a great campaigner. He was passionate and had a definite message. I think most of us who were running thought the opportunity would look good on our resume. I

PARAPHRASE: Ashlynn Wagner, who also ran for the school board position, didn’t even know who Maxwell was when the campaign began, but she said he was a passionate campaigner with a definite message.

ALTERNATE PARAPHRASE: Maxwell was a great campaigner and had a definite message even though he didn’t seem like a strong competitor at first, said Ashlynn Wagner, one of the candidates he beat.