**You will be using the paragraphs below to practice good source note taking:**

**The history of**[**Nigeria**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) can be traced to prehistoric settlers living in the area as early as 11,000 BC. Numerous ancient African civilizations settled in the region that is today Nigeria. An example of one of the civilizations that settles in Nigeria is the [Nri Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Nri" \o "Kingdom of Nri). Islam reached Nigeria through the [Hausa States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hausa_States) during the 11th century. The [Songhai Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Songhai_Empire) also occupied part of the region. Nigeria was colonized by [Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) in 1885, and later became a British protectorate in 1901. Colonization lasted up until 1960, when an independence movement succeeded in gaining Nigeria its independence.

Nigeria first became a [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Nigerian_Republic) at the time it was founded, but succumbed to military rule in 1966 after a bloody coup d'état. A separatist movement later formed the [Republic of Biafra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Biafra) in 1967, leading to the three-year [Nigerian Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Civil_War). Nigeria became a [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Nigerian_Republic) once again after a new constitution was written in 1979. However, the republic was short-lived, when the military led by Major General [Muhammadu Buhari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammadu_Buhari" \o "Muhammadu Buhari) seize again four years later. Buhari was overthrown and a [new republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Nigerian_Republic) was founded in 1993, but was dissolved again by General [Sani Abacha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sani_Abacha" \o "Sani Abacha) afterwards. Abacha died in 1998 and a [fourth republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Nigerian_Republic) was later established the following year, ending three decades of military rule. Today, Nigeria is in the process with rebuilding its petroleum-based economy and fighting the Islamic militant group [Boko Haram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boko_Haram" \o "Boko Haram).

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Part 1: Summarizing**

The first thing you should do when you encounter a source is to summarize the whole thing. To do that, you should answer the question: *What is this about?* Then, write down only the most important ideas.

A summary should be no longer than a 3rd of the original document. For example, the excerpt above is 13 sentences long, so a summary of it would be no more than four sentences long. Try writing a summary below:

**Part 2: Paraphrasing**

The second thing you should do when you encounter a source is to find an important part you want to use in your research. To do that, you should answer the question: *What will help me prove my point?* Then, re-write that section in your own words, and in your own way.

A Paraphrase should be about the same length of the original section, but should use words and sentence structures that your peers could understand easily. Do not just repeat the words as they are written. Try writing a Paraphrase of paragraph one below:

**Part 3: Quoting**

The third thing you should do when you encounter a source is to quote one or two important lines. To do that, you should answer the question: *What can I not say any-more easily?* Then, write down only the most important sentence or part of the sentence, first by introducing where it came from, and then using quotation marks.

For example, I might quote the first line by writing,

Wikipedia begins its Nigerian History segment by explaining that Nigeria began with, “prehistoric settlers living in the area as early as 11,000 BC.”

Find one other thing to quote below from Paragraph 2: