Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Paraphrasing Activity – Sumerian Religion**

**Sumerian Temples (Textbook page 38)**

Religious, social and economic activities all took place at the temple sites. Ziggurats were pyramids made of terraces, one on top of another, linked by ramps and stairs. Some were more than seven stories high. At the top of each ziggurat was a shrine. The Sumerians believed that gods descended to earth using the ziggurat as a stairway.

**Sumerian Temples (Karkainen paraphrase)**

Important community events happened at the ziggurats. Ziggurats had lots of stairs and terraces for viewing. The shrine at the top of the ziggurats was dedicated to a god. Sumerians made sure to include stairs in the ziggurat design so that the gods could walk down them to get to earth.

1. What is the definition of paraphrase?
2. Underline any words that are the same in both the textbook description and Mr. Karkainen’s paraphrase.
3. Why is paraphrasing an important skill?

**Ancient Religious Beliefs (Page 38)**

The people of Sumer worshipped many gods and goddesses. This practice is known as **polytheism**, a belief in many gods. To understand this word, break it into its parts. *Poly-*, a Greek word prefix, means “many.” *Theism* means “belief in a god or gods.” Sumerian **myths**, or stories about gods that explain people’s beliefs, warned that the gods would punish people who angered them. The myths also promised rewards to people who served the gods well.

1. Circle the words or phrases that you believe need to be included “as is” in your paraphrase.
2. Paraphrase this text here in 4-6 sentences:

Explain what changes you made from the original text to your paraphrase.

Paraphrase the section “Honoring the Gods” on page 39 in your textbook in 4-6 sentences:

Paraphrase the section “The Fall of Sumer” on page 39 in your textbook in 4-6 sentences: