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**Standards Solution Holding**

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## The Paraphrasing Strategy for Mathematics

The Paraphrasing Strategy is designed to help students restate the math problem in their own words, therefore strengthening their comprehension of the problem (Montague, 2005).

### Paraphrasing Strategy Steps

1. Read the problem.
2. Underline or highlight key terms.
3. Restate the problem in your own words.
4. Write a numerical sentence.

**Sample Problem: Al's father is 45. He is 15 years older than twice Al's age. How old is Al?**

- We can begin by assigning a variable to what we're asked to find. Here this is Al's age, so let say Al's age =  $x$ .
- We also know from the information given in the problem that 45 is 15 more than twice Al's age. How can we translate this from words into mathematical symbols? What is twice Al's age?
- Well, Al's age is  $x$ , so twice Al's age is  $2x$ , and 15 more than twice Al's age is  $15 + 2x$ . That equals 45, right? Now we have an equation in terms of one variable that we can solve for  $x$ :  $45 = 15 + 2x$ .
- original statement of the problem:  $45 = 15 + 2x$
- subtract 15 from each side:  $30 = 2x$
- divide both sides by 2:  $15 = x$
- Since  $x$  is Al's age and  $x = 15$ , this means that Al is 15 years old.