Paraphrasing Activity: WGST 1100

Read the original text:

JAKARTA, INDONESIA — Maria Ulfah's father started it all.

Even back in the 1960s, he wanted his daughter to have equal status with men. So the devout Muslim encouraged her to study public speaking, take voice lessons and compete in an arena dominated by men: reciting the Koran in public.

In the Muslim world, Koran recitation enjoys an avid following associated in the West with pop music, opera or major sporting events. Performances, which can draw thousands of people, are broadcast from mosque sound systems and on national radio and TV stations.

Haji Mudhoffar, Maria's father, started small: He staged his own Koran reciting competitions in their hometown in East Java so his daughter could taste competition and stretch the virtuosity of her voice as she melodically phrased the holy words.


Read the following paraphrases:

**Paraphrase 1**
Ulfah was introduced to Qur’an recitation by her father, Haji Mudhoffar, who taught her that she was equal to any man or woman. To give Ulfah recitation experience, Haji organized Qur’an contests in their hometown.

**Paraphrase 2**
In the 1960s, Maria Ulfah’s father wanted his daughter to have equal status with men. Reciting the Koran can draw crowds of thousands. He encouraged her to study public speaking and recite the Koran in public. He staged his own Koran reciting competitions in their hometown so his daughter could stretch the virtuosity of her voice.

1. Which is the better paraphrase? Why?

2. Which words were changed from the original text to the better paraphrase?