

Signal Verbs & Phrases

Signal verbs (or phrases) are used to integrate source material into the text of an essay, and indicate that “borrowed” information is about to be used. These active verbs and phrases will often be used with “author tags,” citing the source from which you obtained the information. The author’s name may be used in the sentence itself, or inserted parenthetically after the citation (using MLA or even APA).

acknowledges	critiques	furnishes	perceives	reveals
adds	declares	grants	persists	reviews
admires	deduces	guides	persuades	says
advises	defends	hesitates	phrases	seeks
affirms	defies	highlights	pictures	sees
analyzes	defines	hints	pleads	shares
announces	demands	hypothesizes	pointsout	shifts
answers	demonstrates	identifies	portrays	shows
argues	denies	illuminates	postulates	simplifies
asks	describes	illustrates	praises	solves
asserts	determines	implies	proclaims	specifies
assesses	develops	indicates	professes	states
assists	diminishes	infers	pronounces	stipulates
believes	disagrees	informs	proposes	stresses
categorizes	disconfirms	initiates	protects	substantiates
cautions	discusses	inquires	proves	substitutes
challenges	disputes	insinuates	provides	suggests
charges	disregards	insists	ratifies	summarizes
claims	distinguishes	interprets	rationalizes	supplements
clarifies	editorializes	intimates	reads	supplies
classifies	emphasizes	investigates	reaffirms	supports
comments	endorses	judges	reasons	sympathizes
communicates	ends	lists	reconciles	synthesizes
compares	enumerates	maintains	reconsiders	tells
concedes	envisions	marshals	refutes	tests
concludes	establishes	measures	regards	theorizes
condemns	evaluates	mentions	rejects	toyswith
confirms	exaggerates	narrates	relates	traces
confronts	exemplifies	negates	relinquishes	tracks
confuses	experiences	notes	remarks	treats
considers	experiments	notices	reminds	uncovers
contends	explains	nullifies	replies	urges
continues	exposes	objects	reports	verifies
contradicts	expresses	observes	repudiates	views
contrasts	facilitates	offers	resolves	wants
convinces	feels	opposes	responds	warns
counters	finds	outlines	restates	writes
criticizes	formulates	parses	retorts	