

Common Verbs for Signal Phrases

A **signal phrase** (author name or title of work + verb) helps to smoothly integrate source material into your writing. Here are some common verbs that can be used to create signal phrases.

**Note:* depending on the writing style and/or context of the source, these verbs can be used in the present (ending in s or es) or in the past tense (ending in d or ed).

For more information on integrating sources and signal phrases, see *Integrating Sources* handout.

Says

Introduces source material as fact or information

Add
Believe
Comment
Define
Describe
Emphasize
Explain
Mention
Note
Observe
Offer
Points out
Remark
Report
Say
State
Write

Argues For

Introduces source arguing in favor of a position

Argue
Assert
Contend
Demonstrate
Hold
Illustrate
Insist
Maintain
Propose
Show
Support

Agrees

Introduces source that agrees with another source or your topic

Accept
Agree
Assent
Concur
Parallel
Support

Accepts

Introduces source that accepts a counterargument as valid

Accept
Acknowledge
Admit
Allow
Concede
Grant
Recognize
Yield

Argues Against

Introduces source that contradicts another source or your topic

Attack
Contradict
Criticize
Deny
Differ
Disagree
Dispute
Object
Oppose
Rebut
Refute

Continues

Adds more information from previously used source

Add
Continue
Goes (went) on to say
State further

Implies

Introduces source that implies a point rather than states it

Imply
Propose
Suggest

Concludes

Introduces a source that draws a conclusion

Conclude
Decide
Determine
Find

Erroneous Statements

Introduces a source that makes a statement you are skeptical about

Allege
Assume
Claim

The information for this source was compiled from the following source:

Hamersly Library of Western Oregon University. (n.d.). Verbs to use in signal phrases. Retrieved from <http://www.wou.edu/provost/library>

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