Shape

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**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