

Signal Verbs

Signal verbs 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 will often be used with “author tags,” citing the source from which you obtained the information. This is a non-exhaustive list of signal verbs to use in your writing.

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

