

Verbs for reporting other writers' findings

Selecting appropriate verbs can show your assessment of an author as part of developing 'your voice'. Positive verbs can be used to show your agreement with a writer, whilst more negative ones allow you to question the author's approach. This helps to build your critical stance about a topic.

If you tend to use more neutral verbs such as 'states' and 'suggests' then look at the list and see if you can pick out some you could use in a more positive or negative assessment of the literature.

Acknowledges	Concludes	Fails	Observes	Shows
Admits	Considers	Finds	Overlooks	Signals
Agrees	Criticises	Focuses	Predicts	States
Alleges	Defines	Highlights	Presumes	Studies
Argues	Demonstrates	Hypothesises	Proves	Suggests
Assumes	Depicts	Identifies	Proposes	Tries to identify
Believes	Determines	Implies	Provides evidence for	Sums up
Challenges	Discovers	Indicates	Questions	Underlines
Claims	Emphasises	Interprets	Recognises	Views
Classifies	Establishes	Makes the point	Reports	Wonders
Comments	Explains	Maintains	Says	
Complicates	Explores	Neglects	Seeks to explain	
Concentrates on	Expresses	Notes	Seeks to identify	

Examples of positive verbs	Examples of negative verbs
Considers or Carefully Considers Demonstrates or Clearly Demonstrates Emphasises Highlights Identifies Illustrates Proposes Recognises	Alleges Assumes Claims Complicates Fails Implies Neglects Overlooks Presumes

Use verbs in conjunction with [signposting](#) words and phrases within well structure [paragraphs](#) to ensure your 'voice' or argument is clearly articulated.