

## SIGNAL PHRASES

It is necessary not only to cite all sources but also to make clear which information comes from you and which comes from a source. Signal phrases help to introduce material borrowed from a reference. One word, a phrase, or a full sentence might be used to introduce the borrowed material. You can choose signal words to introduce a quotation, paraphrase, or summary, keeping in mind that your word or phrasing choice can help to guide the reader into the idea of your source. For example, material paraphrased from a science journal might be introduced using the word reported: Morgan (1990) reported that genetic material could be relocated.

Signal phrases often incorporate verbs or verb phrases. The verb needs to fit the context, such as whether the source; claims, argues, observes, concludes, refutes, or states. A list of verbs follows to assist you with thinking about possibilities for your own writing; should you use any of these words, be sure your selection fits the context.

### Some Verbs to Use in Signal Phrases

|               |              |            |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Acknowledges  | Defines      | Points out |
| Adds          | Delineates   | Posits     |
| Admits        | Denies       | Presents   |
| Advances      | Discloses    | Proposes   |
| Affirms       | Discounts    | Purports   |
| Agrees        | Disputes     | Reasons    |
| Alludes       | Documents    | Recounts   |
| Argues        | Explains     | Reflects   |
| Asserts       | Expresses    | Refutes    |
| Attests       | Extrapolates | Reiterates |
| Characterizes | Grants       | Relates    |
| Chronicles    | Highlights   | Remarks    |
| Claims        | Hypothesizes | Replies    |
| Comments      | Illustrates  | Reports    |
| Compares      | Implies      | Responds   |
| Concludes     | Indicates    | Reveals    |
| Concurs       | Insists      | States     |
| Confirms      | Maintains    | Submits    |
| Contends      | Narrates     | Suggests   |
| Contrasts     | Negates      | Supports   |
| Creates       | Notes        | Theorizes  |
| Declares      | Observes     | Writes     |
| Emphasizes    | Refers       | Verifies   |