






# Signal Phrases

**Signal Phrases** or **Attributive Tags** are an essential element of research writing. A Signal Phrases

-  introduce source material
-  indicate where source material comes from.
-  shape your reader's response to a source through appropriate word choice.

## So How Do You Write A Signal Phrase?


Signal Phrases can be a single word, phrase, or sentence.  
 They can appear before or after a quote, paraphrase, or summary.  
 They often include verbs; be sure your word choice fits the context of the source.

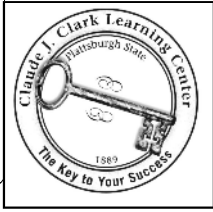
### Examples

According to Karin Killough, Director of the Learning Center . . .  
 Nichole distinguishes between/among . . .

### Signal Phrase Verbs

Acknowledges	Confirms	Describes	Explains	Informs	Points out	Reflects	Signals
Adds	Connects	Develops	Expresses	Insists	Prepares	Refutes	Specifies
Admits	Considers	Discusses	Extrapolates	Introduces	Presents	Reiterates	Speculates
Advances	Contends	Discloses	Finds	Maintains	Promises	Rejects	States
Affirms	Contradicts	Discounts	Focuses on	Means	Proposes	Relates	Submits
Agrees	Contrasts	Discovers	Grants	Narrates	Proves	Remarks	Suggests
Alludes	Creates	Disputes	Highlights	Negates	Purports	Replies	Supports
Analyzes	Declares	Documents	Hypothesizes	Notes	Questions	Reports	Supposes
Argues	Defines	Emphasizes	Illuminates	Notices	Recognizes	Responds	Theorizes
Asserts	Delineates	Endeavors to	Illustrates	Observes	Recommends	Reveals	Thinks
Attests	Demonstrates	Establishes	Implies	Offers	Recounts	Says	Wishes
Balances	Denies	Estimates	Indicates	Organizes	Refers	Sees	Writes
						Shows	Verifies

 **Helpful Hints from Our Writing Tutors**  
 Remember to add quotation marks around direct quotes of someone else's words.  
 When using signal phrases in a research paper, be sure to provide appropriate parenthetical citations for all quotes, paraphrases, and summaries.



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