The WRITING CENTER

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

Centers for Academic Success and Achievement

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