



## SIGNAL PHRASES

When citing all sources or borrowing from a source, it is necessary 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, paraphrased material, or a summary, keeping in mind that your word or phrasing choice can help to guide the reader into the idea of your source. Material paraphrased from a science journal might be introduced using the word “reported.” For example: 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. Below is a list of verbs to consider using 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