Common Signal Phrases to Introduce a Quote, Paraphrase, or Summary

**Note: APA style requires the use of the past tense or present perfect tense when using signal phrases to describe earlier research (Example: "Smith (1992) found..." or "Smith (1992) has found...")

**Says**
The verb introduces the quotation as information.

- Says
- Adds
- Believes
- Comments
- Describes
- Discusses
- Emphasizes
- Explains
- Mentions

**Yields**
The source agrees that a conflicting point is valid.

- Yields
- Acknowledges
- Admits
- Agrees
- Allows
- Concedes
- Grants
- Recognizes

**Argues in favor**
The verb indicates that the source is providing evidence or reasons for a position.

- Argues
- Asserts
- Contends
- Demonstrates
- Holds
- Illustrates

**Argues against**
The verb indicates that the source is responding critically to another source or with the position you are advancing.

- Argues against
- Attacks
- Contradicts
- Criticizes
- Denies
- Differs
- Disagrees

**States erroneously**
The source makes a statement that you are skeptical about (be careful of your tone if you use these).

- States erroneously
- Alleges
- Assumes
- Claims

**Continues**
You continue to refer to or quote the source.

- Continues
- Adds
- Continues
- Goes on to say
- States further

**Agrees**
The verb indicates that the source agrees with another source or with the position you are advancing.

- Agrees
- Accepts
- Agrees
- Assents
- Concurs
- Parallels
- Supports

**Implies**
The source presents information either tentatively or indirectly.

- Implies
- Implies
- Proposes
- Suggests

**Concludes**
The source draws a conclusion from previous discussion.

- Concludes
- Concludes
- Decides
- Determines
- Finds

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