

**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.

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Adds       | Notes      |
| Believes   | Observes   |
| Comments   | Offers     |
| Describes  | Points out |
| Discusses  | Remarks    |
| Emphasizes | Reports    |
| Explains   | States     |
| Mentions   | Writes     |

**Argues in favor**

The verb indicates that the source is providing evidence or reasons for a position.

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Argues       | Indicates |
| Asserts      | Insists   |
| Contends     | Maintains |
| Demonstrates | Proposes  |
| Holds        | Shows     |
| Illustrates  | Supports  |

**States erroneously**

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

- Alleges
- Assumes
- Claims

**Continues**

You continue to refer to or quote the source.

- 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.

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

**Yields**

The source agrees that a conflicting point is valid.

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

**Argues against**

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

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Attacks     | Disputes |
| Contradicts | Objects  |
| Criticizes  | Opposes  |
| Denies      | Rebuts   |
| Differs     | Refutes  |
| Disagrees   |          |

**Implies**

The source presents information either tentatively or indirectly.

- Implies
- Proposes
- Suggests

**Concludes**

The source draws a conclusion from previous discussion.

- Concludes
- Decides
- Determines
- Finds

Harris, R. (2002). *Using Sources Effectively*. Los Angeles: Pyczak Publishing