

## Reporting Verbs

Academic writers must be able to incorporate the research and writing of others into their own writing. To do this effectively, writers need to know many verbs beyond "say" or "talk about."

Use this list of reporting verbs to help you indicate to your audience that you are presenting the knowledge, research, or opinion of some other writer. You are reporting what they said or wrote. Your verb choice may also describe how something was said or written, so choose your words carefully.

This list does not offer definitions. Instead, it offers examples of use. Few of these words can be used interchangeably. If you need further explanation of a verb, look it up in a dictionary.

Verb	Example of Use
Acknowledge	Constructivist writers in education have described varied versions of constructivism, but commonly <b>acknowledge</b> the active role of the learner in interpretation of reality (Larochelle and Bednarz 1998, 5).
Address	In the present study, we first <b>address</b> the problem of the estimation of the break dates and present an efficient algorithm to obtain global minimizers...
Admit Concede	Kansai Telecasting Corporation (KTV) <b>has admitted / has conceded</b> that it faked scientific results in one of its programs, and used dubbing to put false words into the mouths of foreign researchers.
Argue Express	Mills quotes a 19th century French imperial theorist, who eloquently <b>argues / expresses</b> this idea with regard to race.
Call (for) Urge	Delpit <b>calls for / urges</b> teachers and educators to pass on the tools that students need to succeed.
Challenge	The story <b>challenges</b> the narrator's limited perception of the world, placing more importance on the mutability of the character...
Deny	By consistently relegating Jews to the ancient past, the author <b>denies</b> them a place in the present.
Describe	In Poe's tale, the narrator reflects on his perception of human nature. He <b>describes</b> , for instance, the "humanity of feeling" that he once possessed.
Demonstrate	We <b>demonstrate</b> this approach through a comparative analysis of introductions to student essays and research articles.
Determine	On occasion, new mutations are discovered and experimentation is undertaken to <b>determine</b> the exact genes involved in these new mutants.

Verb	Example of Use
Discuss	Loiselle (1985) also lists Central American sister species for the Antillan cichlids, but does not <b>discuss</b> his phylogenic method.
Emphasize	Herzig <b>emphasizes</b> the importance of central participation for student progress.
Encourage	What Chaucer <b>encourages</b> is exactly the opposite of skipping the sinful stories...
Explain	Leff <b>explains</b> the shift to long-term growth with the introduction of a new constitution in Brazil...
Indicate	A recent analysis <b>indicates</b> that <i>Icthyostega</i> was not well-adapted for terrestrial locomotion.
Inform	Often, Ginzburg <b>informs</b> the reader of what happened to particular characters when he first introduces them.
Note Mention Point out	As Kemp <b>notes / mentions / points out</b> , the replacement of Pelycosaurus by Therapsids was a milestone in mammalian evolution because it marked the first metabolic progression from ectoderm toward endotherm.
Offer Propose Suggest	Shedding light on this quandary, Reiseberg (2001) <b>offers / proposes / suggests</b> a new theoretical mechanism by which these changes might facilitate speciation.
Publish	In 1985, Moudarras [5] <b>published</b> an analysis of generalized structure with one outrigger placed at the top floor.
Question	The authors <b>question</b> the veracity of the claims made in the report.
Recommend	Brew <b>recommends</b> that communities of practice resembling those of disciplinary research be created for undergraduates to invite them into apprenticeship roles.
Remark Respond	He <b>remarks / responds</b> to Victor Frankenstein of his vegetarian choice, "my food is not that of man; I do not destroy the lamb and the kid to glut my appetite..."
Report	Payne <b>reports</b> that students wrote to "argue for the choices they have made and hope others will make upon reading their essays."
Specify	Grappa and Leslie <b>specify</b> 43 distinct recommendations to help institutions support part-time students.
State Write	Galamabos <b>states / writes</b> that most analytical studies show the differences between an exact design approach and the simplified theory using plastic stress blocks.
Warn	Gadamer <b>warns</b> us that the computer will "control our written language and ... set narrow boundaries to the wealth of words used for communicating."

**Sources:** These reporting verbs can be found in Hinkel's (2004) *Teaching Academic ESL Writing*. The examples of verb use were obtained from searches of [Google](#), [Google Scholar](#), and the [Michigan Corpus of Upper-Level Student Papers](#), available at <http://micusp.elicorpora.info/>. Many have been modified for clarity or brevity. From the MICUSP Fair Use Statement: "The corpus files are freely available for study, research and teaching." Compiled by Kelvin Keown, May 2011.