



SIGNAL PHRASES

Signal Phrases or **Attributive Tags** are essential to research writing. Through appropriate word choice, a signal phrase can:

- Introduce source material
- Indicate the origin of the source material
- Shape the reader's response to a source

How to use a Signal Phrase:

- As a single word, phrase, or sentence
- Before or after a quote, paraphrase, or summary
- May often include verbs (properly matching the content of the source)

Examples:

- According to Strange and Dickinson (2016) ...
- Strange and Dickinson (2016) argue...

Sample Signal Phrase Verbs:

Acknowledges	Contradicts	Endeavors to	Introduces	Purports	Sees
Adds	Contrasts	Establishes	Maintains	Questions	Shows
Admits	Creates	Estimates	Means	Recognizes	Signals
Advances	Declares	Explains	Narrates	Recount	States
Affirms	Defines	Expresses	Negates	Reflects	Thinks
Agrees	Delineates	Finds	Notes	Rejects	Writes
Argues	Demonstrates	Focuses on	Refers	Relates	Wishes
Attests	Denies	Speculates	Specifies	Supposes	Underlines
Balances	Describes	Illustrates	Suggests	Proves	Grants
Supports	Confirms	Connects	Emphasizes	Replies	Opposes
Considers	Documents	Insists	Promises	Reports	Refutes
Responds	Reveals	Verifies	Points out	Says	Claims