# Verbs of Attribution

These verbs are used to give credit to other authors, or attribution, for words or ideas that you use in your writing. It is often easy to fall into a rut with the words you use, and it is useful to vary your word choice to create variety and interest in your writing. Make sure that the verbs you choose accurately reflects the author’s intent. Are they reporting, explaining, describing, arguing? Using these verbs will help you get past commonly used verbs such as: ‘says’ ‘writes,’ or ‘studies’.

General verbs of attribution:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| accepts | believes | expresses | hypothesizes | points out | states  |
| acknowledges | challenges  | decides | illustrates | questions  | suggests |
| allows | cites | declares | indicates | realizes | supposes  |
| analyzes | claims | defines | introduces | remarks | thinks  |
| answers | compares | describes | maintains | replies | uses |
| assumes | concludes | discusses | notes | responds | warns |
| asks | considers | emphasizes | observes | shows | wonders  |
| argues | explains | finds | offers | speculates | writes |

Verbs of attribution that show agreement:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| affirms | concurs with | supports |
| agrees | confirms | verifies |
| concedes | echoes |  |

Verbs that show disagreement:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| counters | disagrees | opposes  |
| criticizes | disputes | refutes |
| denies | objects | rejects |