PUTTING SOURCES IN CONVERSATION: VERBS AND CLAUSES

When incorporating sources into a researched argument, it is important not only to present each author’s ideas fairly and accurately, but also to indicate how they relate to surrounding ideas. Academic writers often highlight these connections using carefully chosen verbs and signal phrases. Using the words below to enhance the precision of your language will allow you to synthesize your presentation of individual authors’ ideas into your larger argument, which can include both developing a cohesive account of the field and situating your own original ideas alongside those of others.

**OPENING CLAUSES**

Accordingly | For example | In particular | More specifically
---|---|---|---
As a result | Furthermore | In response | Nevertheless
Consequently | However | In this way | On the contrary
Contrary to | In addition | Likewise | On the other hand
Conversely | In contrast | More importantly | Similarly

**STATING**

avers | declares | observes | says
avows | discusses | offers | states
believes | expresses | opines | summarizes
characterizes | mentions | points out | supports
comments | notes | presents | writes

**ARGUING**

acknowledges | avers | (de)emphasizes | invokes
adds (to) | claims | explains | maintains
asserts | concludes | hypothesizes | posits
argues | contends | insists | proposes

**SHOWING**

analyzes | elucidates | furnishes | sheds light on
constitutes | exemplifies | illuminates | shows
demonstrates | exhibits | illustrates | supplies
displays | expounds | reveals | testifies to

**SUGGESTING**

alludes to | gestures at | indicates | might
appears to | hints at | infers | seems to
deduces | implies | insinuates | suggests

**COUNTERING**

calls into question | contrasts with | interrogates | reconsiders
casts doubt on | counters | objects to | rejects
challenges | destabilizes | overturns | refutes
complicates | disavows | problematizes | responds to
contradicts | distinguishes between | queries | reverses
condemns | goes against | questions | undermines

Written by Ryan Wepler with help from the Yale College Writing Partners, © 2011
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<th>EXPANDING/SIMPLIFYING</th>
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