# Effective Verbs for Introducing Quotations

Oftentimes in academic writing, you decide to use outside sources to enhance your argument and make it credible. It can be a challenge to insert these sources smoothly without taking away from your voice as a writer. However, if you keep your audience in mind when introducing these references, you'll be able to integrate the outside information with your analysis more effectively.

There are several rules you should follow when incorporating quotations into a paper. When you incorporate a text, you should have a reason for the quoted material's inclusion: is it reflecting the opinion of an important scholar or expert on your topic?; is it clarifying a new insight?; is it supporting one of your points? By introducing the quotation carefully, you can let your reader know both where the quotation is coming from, by including the author and the page number (if available), but also give your readers a sense of how the original author feels about his/her own material.

Examples:

Stephen King *emphasizes* that "once your basic story is on paper, you need to think about what it means and enrich your following drafts with your conclusions" (208).

William Zinsser correctly *believes*, "you have to strip your writing down before you can build it back up" (19).

These are just two examples of verbs you can use to introduce your quotations, portraying both the original author's view as well as (in the second example) hinting at your own reaction to that view. Below is an expanded list of effective verbs for integrating quoted material into your paper. Not every verb will carry the same meaning, so be wise in your selection!

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| acknowledges | cites | denies | finds | presents | says |
| addresses | claims | describes | identifies | proposes | shows |
| adds | compares | determines | inquires | proves | states |
| admits | concludes | discovers | insists | questions | stipulates |
| agrees | concurs | emphasizes | investigates | rationalizes | stresses |
| analyzes | confirms | envisions | lists | refers to | suggests |
| answers | considers | evaluates | makes the | refutes | summarizes |
| argues | contends | examines | case | rejects | surveys |
| asks | critiques | explains | measures | remarks | synthesizes |
| asserts | declares | explicates | notes | replies | traces |
| assesses | defines | explores | observes | reports | views |
| believes | delineates | expounds on | points out | responds | warns |
| categorizes | demonstrates | furnishes | postulates | reviews | writes |