



Signal Phrases

When citing or borrowing from a source, it is necessary to make clear what information comes from you and what information comes from your source. Signal phrases help to introduce material you are using from a reference. One word, a phrase, or a full sentence might be used to introduce the borrowed material. You can choose signal words to introduce a quotation, paraphrased material, or a summary, keeping in mind that your word or phrasing choice can help guide the reader into the idea of your source. Material paraphrased from a science journal might be introduced using the word *reported*.

Morgan (1990) *reported* that genetic material could be relocated.

Signal phrases often incorporate verbs or verb phrases. The verb should fit the context, such as whether the source claims, argues, observes, concludes, refutes, or states.

As Prescott (2001) *argues*, educational paradigms are obsolete.

Some verbs to use as signal phrases:

Acknowledges	Defines	Posits
Adds	Delineates	Presents
Admits	Denies	Proposes
Advances	Discloses	Purports
Affirms	Discounts	Reasons
Agrees	Disputes	Recounts
Alludes	Documents	Refers
Argues	Explains	Reflects
Asserts	Expresses	Refutes
Attests	Extrapolates	Reiterates
Characterizes	Grants	Relates
Chronicles	Highlights	Remarks
Claims	Hypothesizes	Replies
Comments	Illustrates	Reports
Compares	Implies	Responds
Concludes	Indicates	Reveals
Concurs	Insists	States
Confirms	Maintains	Submits
Contends	Narrates	Suggests
Contrasts	Negates	Supports

Creates	Notes	Theorizes
Declares	Observes	Verifies
Emphasizes	Points out	Writes