

Introductory Verbs for Quotations
by
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When you're incorporating quoted material into your text from another source, try to get away from the stereotyped verbs *says*, *writes*, *thinks*, or *feels*.

The citation leading up to a quotation represents an important link between your thoughts and those of your source. The *introductory verb* can tell your reader something about your reasons for presenting the quotation and its context in the work that you're taking it from. Try these verbs below to create some new and interesting possibilities:

acknowledges	concedes	endorses	points out
adds	confirms	establishes	proposes
admits	contends	explains	reasons
agrees	continues	finds	refutes
argues	declares	grants	responds
asserts	denies	implies	states
believes	disagrees	insists	suggests
claims	disputes	maintains	
compares	emphasizes	notes	

The following are examples of ways to vary introductory verbs:

In the words of Herbert Terrace, “. . . .”
As Flora Davis has noted, “. . . .”
The Gardners, Whashoe's trainers, point out that “. . . .”
“. . . .” claims Noam Chomsky.
Psychologist H. S. Terrace offers an odd argument for this view: “. . . .”
Terrace answers these objections with the following analysis: “. . . .”

Verbs that suggest you *agree* with your source include the following:

notes	points out	suggests	has discovered
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Verbs that suggest you are *neutral* or that you *disagree* with your source include the following:

alleges	claims	contends	argues
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