

REPORTING VERBS

Writing Process

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT

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PURPOSE

Introduce another writer's research/ideas/speech to the audience.

Refer to a source or a quotation to build your argument.

Partners with an attribution signal (author name & title) to announce a paraphrase and/or quotation

Indicate the strength of the paraphrase/quotation.

Selecting Reporting Verbs

Reporting verbs can present different levels of meaning and strength

The researchers _ that the results are vital.

state - neutral position

claim - no proof of what the author(s) says

imply - weak verb

assert - strong verb



Types of Reporting Verbs

Tentative Reporting Verbs

- Cautiously believing in the idea(s), but wishes to use them in the paper
- Examples:

suggest, speculate, intimate, hypothesize, imply, propose, recommend, question the view that, postulate

Neutral Reporting Verbs

- Simply stating the idea(s) without any judgement or position.
- Examples:

describe, show, reveal, study, demonstrate, note, point out, indicate, report, observe, assume, take into consideration, examine

Strong Reporting Verbs

- Emphasize confidence with the idea(s).
- Examples:

argue, claim, emphasize, contend, maintain, assert, theorize, support the view that, deny, negate, refute, reject, challenge, strongly believe that

REPORTING VERB FUNCTIONS

REPORTING VERB FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
Making a claim	<i>believe, claim</i>
Expressing agreement	<i>accept, acknowledge</i>
Expressing disagreement	<i>question, reject</i>
Emphasizing	<i>emphasize, highlight</i>
Examining	<i>evaluate, examine</i>
Making recommendations	<i>insist, recommend</i>
Expressing a proposition	<i>hypothesize, suggest</i>
Expressing belief	<i>believe, express</i>
Presenting a conclusion	<i>conclude, discern</i>
Providing explanation	<i>articulate, clarify</i>

REPORTING VERB PATTERNS

<i>Reporting verb</i> + that	<i>Reporting verb</i> + noun
<i>Reporting verb</i> + somebody/something + that	<i>Reporting verb</i> + somebody/something + as
<i>Reporting verb</i> + preposition	<i>Reporting verb</i> + somebody + (not) infinitive
<i>Reporting verb</i> + preposition + verb +ing	<i>Reporting verb</i> + verb +ing
As + author name + <i>reporting verb</i>	<i>Reporting verb</i> + question word
<i>Reporting verb</i> + if	

Reporting Verb Examples	PREPOSITION PATTERN
<i>define</i>	<i>x as y</i>
<i>alert, compare, object, subscribe</i>	<i>x to y</i>
<i>challenge, exhort, forbid, warn</i>	<i>x to do y</i>
<i>apologize, blame, criticize</i>	<i>x for y</i>
<i>confuse, contrast, disagree, concur</i>	<i>x with</i>
<i>accuse, warn</i>	<i>x of y</i>



Reporting verb + noun or -ing	Reporting verb + that
<p>Examples:</p> <p><i>analyze, applaud, appraise, assess, consider, contradict, critique, debate, describe, disclaim, discount, discuss, dismiss, disregard, evaluate, examine, express, highlight, identify, ignore, illustrate, investigate, justify, list, oppose, outline, present, question, refute, reject, restate, study, support, underscore, use, validate, verify</i></p>	<p>Examples:</p> <p><i>accept, acknowledge, advise, advocate, agree, allege, announce, argue, articulate, assert, assure, believe, claim, clarify, comment, complain, concede, conclude, confirm, find, guarantee, hypothesize, imply, indicate, infer, insist, justify, know, maintain, note, observe, persuade, propose, prove, question, reason, recommend, report, reveal, state, stress, suggest, suspect, theorize, understand, urge, warn</i></p>

CAUTION

- Do not overuse reporting verbs.
- Goal of reporting verbs is to provide signposts for the audience so that they know what is from a source and what is original.
- Do not be creative with your reporting verbs substitutions.

SOURCES

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