

VERBS

THAT DEFINE A WRITER'S CHOICES

In the process of presenting a position or making an argument, a writer does more than “state” facts or “say” what she thinks. Writers take any number of actions as they craft an argument. For example, a writer may argue for a particular action by explaining the issue, demonstrating its importance, considering opposing views, offering a rebuttal, and proposing a course of action.

When you work with a text, citing portions of a writer’s argument to support your position, clearly identify the writer’s action. For example –

- If the text offers examples and you want to use one, then write that the source “demonstrates.”
- If a writer offers a strongly held belief that you want to include, then write that the source “believes.”
- If a writer looks closely at something, then say that the source “examines.”

Choose the right verb to accurately describe how the writer originally presented the information.

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| admit | define | point out |
| add | demonstrate | present |
| agree | disagree | propose |
| ask | discover | question |
| ascertain | explain | remark |
| analyze | explore | reply |
| assess | examine | refer |
| argue | expound | review |
| address | emphasize | report |
| answer | envision | rationalize |
| believe | evaluate | state |
| categorize | furnish | suggest |
| comment | find | show |
| compare | investigate | say |
| contrast | inquire | stress |
| critique | identify | stipulate |
| consider | list | summarize |
| concur | measure | survey |
| conclude | make the case | synthesize |
| cite | note | trace |
| describe | observe | view |
| delineate | prove | warn |
| determine | postulate | write |