

Reporting verbs

Reporting verbs help you introduce the ideas or words of others as paraphrase or quotation from scholarly literature. Always accompanied by a reference, they indicate where you're drawing on other people's work to build your own argument. They also indicate *your stance* (agree, disagree, etc) on the scholarship you're describing, highlighting your critical contribution. There are lots of reporting verbs to choose from and, depending on the context, they might be used to convey more than one stance, so you'll notice that some appear in more than one category.

This list of reporting verbs has been organised according to the critical stances they signal:

Critical Stance	Reporting Verb	Example
Neutral description of what the text says	Observes Describes Discusses Reports Outlines Remarks States Goes on to say that Quotes that Says Mentions Articulates Writes Relates Conveys	Abrams mentions that culture shock has "long been misunderstood as a primarily psychological phenomenon" (34) Chakrabarty outlines the four stages of mitosis (72-3)
Acceptance as uncontested fact, having critiqued it	Recognises Clarifies Acknowledges Concedes Accepts Refutes Uncovers Admits Demonstrates Highlights Illuminates Supports Concludes Elucidates Reveals	Abrams refutes the idea that culture shock is a "primarily psychological phenomenon" (34) Chakrabarty demonstrates that mitosis actually occurs over five stages (73)

	Verifies	
Recognition that this is one perspective on or interpretation of an issue or conclusion, and others might be possible	Argues Reasons Maintains Contends Hypothesises Proposes Theorises Feels Considers Asserts Disputes Advocates Opines Thinks Implies Posits	Abrams contends that culture shock is socially produced (38) Chakrabarty hypothesises that metaphase is a more complex process than previously thought (77)
Agreement with that perspective/interpretation/conclusion	Shows Illustrates Points out Proves Finds Explains Agrees Confirms Identifies Evidences Attests	Abrams points out that culture shock is a "stress response mechanism" (34) Chakrabarty proves that mitosis is irreversible, once triggered (80)
Disagreement with that perspective/interpretation/conclusion	Believes Claims Justifies Insists Assumes Alleges Denies Speculates Disregards Supposes Conjectures Surmises	Abrams' analysis disregards the neurochemical factors that contribute to culture shock (36) Chakrabarty speculates that "metaphase is the most important stage of mitosis" (78)
Slight reservations held – probably true but being cautious	Notes Asserts Suggests Challenges Critiques Emphasises Declares	Abrams asserts that theories of culture shock have moved away from psychological explanations.

	Indicates Comments Upholds	Chakrabarty emphasises the role of metaphase within mitosis (78)
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