

Introduce Quotes: Reporting Verbs

Reporting verbs are verbs that introduce a quote. You should:

- use a variety of them (see the chart, below)
- mainly use the present tense (e.g. The writers **state**, Jackson **agrees**)

For stylistic advice, see the document “Find Your Own Voice.”

Reporting Verbs (University of Adelaide, 2014)			
Action	Weak Verbs	Neutral Verbs	Strong Verbs
Adds		adds	
Advises		advises	
Agrees	admits, concedes	accepts, acknowledges, agrees, concurs, confirms, recognises	applauds, congratulates, extols, praises, supports
Argues and persuades	apologises	assures, encourages, interprets, justifies, reasons	alerts, argues, boasts, contends, convinces, emphasises, exhorts, forbids, insists, proves, promises
Believes	guesses, hopes, imagines	believes, claims, declares, expresses, feels, holds, knows, maintains, professes, subscribes to, thinks	asserts, guarantees, insists, upholds
Concludes		concludes, discovers, finds, infers, realises	
Disagrees and questions	doubts, questions	challenges, debates, disagrees, questions, requests, wonders	accuses, attacks, complains, contradicts, criticises, denies, discards, disclaims, discounts, dismisses, disputes, disregards, negates, objects to, opposes, refutes, rejects
Discusses	comments	discusses, explores	reasons

Reporting Verbs (University of Adelaide, 2014)			
Action	Weak Verbs	Neutral Verbs	Strong Verbs
Emphasises			accentuates, emphasises, highlights, stresses, underscores, warns
Evaluates and examines		analyses, appraises, assesses, compares considers, contrasts, critiques, evaluates, examines, investigates, understands	blames, complains, ignores, scrutinises, warns
Explains		articulates, clarifies, explains	
Presents	confuses	comments, defines, describes, estimates, forgets, identifies, illustrates, implies, informs, instructs, lists, mentions, notes, observes, outlines, points out, presents, remarks, reminds, reports, restates, reveals, shows, states, studies, tells, uses	announces, promises
Suggests	alleges, intimates, speculates	advises, advocates, hypothesises, posits, postulates, proposes, suggests, theorises	asserts, recommends, urges

References

Jurewicz, J. (2015, September 1). Is Western Australia ready for driverless cars?

The Sunday Times. <http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/is-western-australia-ready-for-driverless-cars-ng-fa26c7716c0be8e2f0dbdf411c36f0cd/>

The University of Adelaide. (2014). *Verbs for reporting. Writing centre learning guide*. http://www.adelaide.edu.au/writingcentre/learning_guides/learningGuide_verbsForReporting.pdf