

Reporting Verbs

In academic writing, you can refer to ideas or research of others by using reporting verbs, e.g. *Brown (2011) states that....* Your choice of reporting verb can show the reader how you feel about the research you are quoting or paraphrasing, e.g. *Smith (2010) shows ...* vs. *Smith (2010) advises to....* vs. *Smith (2010) challenges ...*

Using the same reporting word all the time will make your writing sound repetitive. Here is a list of common reporting verbs:

Neutral	Tentative	Strong (in favour)	Strong (against)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to show • to demonstrate • to investigate • to explore • to state • to report • to list • to describe • to outline • to note • to comment • to express • to remark • to declare • to inform • to discuss • to define • to mention • to address • to present • to reveal • to find • to view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to suggest • to propose • to advise • to recommend • to speculate • to hypothesise • to reason • to imply • to postulate • to question 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to assert • to advocate • to encourage • to argue • to affirm • to believe • to appraise • to conclude • to stress • to emphasise • to accentuate • to urge • to insist • to claim • to convince • to satisfy • to confirm • to support the view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to challenge • to dispute • to disagree • to refute • to negate • to object • to contradict • to dismiss • to caution • to doubt • to oppose

Examples	Your Position
Jones (2013) notes that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style.	Neutral
It has been suggested that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style (Jones, 2013).	Tentative – other opinions may be present
Jones's (2013) study affirms that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style.	Strong – evidence in favour of an argument
A study by Jones (2013) challenges the view that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style.	Strong – evidence against an argument