

# Signal Words

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In academic writing, transition (signal) words guide the reader between evidence and our own ideas. These words help to introduce a quotation or paraphrase.

**Says** – introduces information.

Comments  
Discloses  
Discusses  
Divulges  
Explains  
Informs  
Mentions  
Notes  
Remarks  
Reports  
States  
Specifies  
Writes

**Shows** – introduces evidence.

Conveys  
Demonstrates  
Describes  
Emphasizes  
Expresses  
Illustrates  
Indicates  
Reveals  
Points out

**Agrees** – shares a belief about a position.

Assents  
Concurs  
Parallels  
Relates  
Supports

**Argues in favor** – provides reasoning or evidence that supports a position.

Affirms  
Argues  
Asserts  
Attests  
Believes  
Confirms  
Contends  
Declares  
Defends  
Holds  
Insists  
Maintains  
Offers  
Proclaims  
Proposes  
Reasons  
Upholds  
Verifies

**Argues against** – provides reasoning or evidence that opposes a position.

Attacks  
Challenges  
Contradicts  
Criticizes  
Debates  
Denies  
Differs  
Disagrees  
Disputes  
Dissents  
Objects  
Opposes  
Rebuts  
Refutes

**States erroneously** – uses unsound evidence or reasoning.

Alleges  
Assumes  
Claims  
Figures  
Gathers  
Indicates  
Infers  
Presumes  
Supposes  
Surmises

**Implies** – presents information indirectly or tentatively.

Alludes to  
Insinuates  
Suggests

**Yields** – agrees that a conflicting point is valid.

Accepts  
Acknowledges  
Admits  
Agrees  
Allows  
Concedes  
Considers  
Grants  
Qualifies  
Recognizes  
Warrants

**Continues** – develops evidence about the same argument.

Adds  
Clarifies  
Persists  
Proceeds  
States further

**Concludes** – draws a conclusion from previous discussion.

Decides  
Determines  
Discovers  
Finds

### Other

- **Discerns** (makes a distinction)
- **Examines** (looks at closely)
- **Explores** (discusses in detail)
- **Identifies** (makes a distinction)
- **Observes** (makes an observation)
- **Reflects** (thinks deeply about)