

PUTTING SOURCES IN CONVERSATION: VERBS AND CLAUSES

When incorporating sources into a researched argument, it is important not only to present each author's ideas fairly and accurately, but also to indicate how they relate to surrounding ideas. Academic writers often highlight these connections using carefully chosen verbs and signal phrases. Using the words below to enhance the precision of your language will allow you to synthesize your presentation of individual authors' ideas into your larger argument, which can include both developing a cohesive account of the field and situating your own original ideas alongside those of others.

OPENING CLAUSES

Accordingly	For example	In particular	More specifically
As a result	Furthermore	In response	Nevertheless
Consequently	However	In this way	On the contrary
Contrary to	In addition	Likewise	On the other hand
Conversely	In contrast	More importantly	Similarly

STATING

avers	declares	observes	says
avows	discusses	offers	states
believes	expresses	opines	summarizes
characterizes	mentions	points out	supports
comments	notes	presents	writes

ARGUING

acknowledges	avers	(de)emphasizes	invokes
adds (to)	claims	explains	maintains
asserts	concludes	hypothesizes	posits
argues	contends	insists	proposes

SHOWING

analyzes	elucidates	furnishes	sheds light on
constitutes	exemplifies	illuminates	shows
demonstrates	exhibits	illustrates	supplies
displays	expounds	reveals	testifies to

SUGGESTING

alludes to	gestures at	indicates	might
appears to	hints at	infers	seems to
deduces	implies	insinuates	suggests

COUNTERING

calls into question	contrasts with	interrogates	reconsiders
casts doubt on	counters	objects to	rejects
challenges	destabilizes	overturns	refutes
complicates	disavows	problematizes	responds to
contradicts	distinguishes between	queries	reverses
condemns	goes against	questions	undermines

EXPANDING/ SIMPLIFYING

augments
broadens
builds on
elaborates

elucidates
expands
explicates
explores

expounds
extends
furthers
minimizes

parses
reduces
renders
simplifies