

Quotation Verbs

The following is a list of verbs that may be used to introduce quotations in a research paper. Remember that the quotation must be strong support for the point you are making, reflect especially effective word usage, lend authority to your argument, provide an example, or allow you to use some controversial statement. Otherwise, you should paraphrase or summarize the information you are using. When the quotation is appropriate, choose a lead-in verb from the following list:

SAYS-Introduces the quotation as information

Adds	Remarks	Mentions
Believes	Reports	Notes
Comments	Says	Observes
Describes	States	Offers
Emphasizes	Writes	Points out
Explains		

AGREES-Indicates the source agrees with another source or with your position

Accepts	Concurs
Agrees	Parallels
Assents	Supports

YIELDS-Agrees that an opposing or conflicting source is valid

Acknowledges	Concedes
Admits	Grants
Allows	Recognizes

ARGUES IN FAVOR-Provides support with evidence or reasons for the position

Argues	Holds	Maintains
Asserts	Illustrates	Proposes
Contends	Indicates	Shows
Demonstrates	Insists	Supports

ARGUES AGAINST-Responds critically to another source or position you are advancing

Attacks	Differs	Opposes
Contradicts	Disagrees	Rebuts
Criticizes	Disputes	Refutes
Denies	Objects	

STATES ERRONEOUSLY-Makes a statement that you question or feel is incorrect (Watch your tone)

Alleges
Assumes
Claims

IMPLIES-Presents information tentatively or indirectly

Implies
Proposes
Suggests

CONTINUES-Continues reference to quote

Adds
Continues
Goes on to say
States further

CONCLUDES-Draws a conclusion from previous discussion

Concludes
Decides
Determines
Finds

Points to remember about using quotations:

- 1.) Introduce your sources with at least one of the following:
 - ❖ The author's name
 - ❖ A description of the author (credentials, title, etc.)
 - ❖ The title of the book or article
 - ❖ The name of the journal or web site
 - ❖ A brief summary of the content
 - ❖ An expression of the role of the quotation
- 2.) Use a variety of introductory verbs
- 3.) Use introductory sentences with a colon.
 - ❖ Doe prefers an alternative approach:
 - ❖ Doe distinguishes between the two:
 - ❖ Doe reminds of the idea's origin:
- 4.) Use an introductory phrase
 - ❖ In the words of Doe,
 - ❖ According to Doe,
 - ❖ As Doe tells us,
- 5.) Use both set-off and built-in quotations
 - ❖ A set-off quotation follows the academic style of documentation and presents the quotation in a formal way with an introductory phrase, verb, or sentence, followed by a comma or colon.
 - ❖ A built-in quotation places the quotation into a subordinate clause beginning with *that* and attaches the clause to the writer's sentence. No comma or initial capital letter is needed.
- 6.) Use the historical present tense.
- 7.) Although you may omit part of a quote, interrupt a quote with commentary, or quote only a phrase, you may not misconstrue the author's meaning and you must **always quote exactly.**

Harris, Robert A. *Using Sources Effectively*. Los Angeles: Pyczak Publ., 2002.