

Verbs Used in MLA Style Signal Phrases (adapted from Diana Hacker's *Rules for Writers* 5th ed., p. 408)

Note: *APA style requires the verb in a signal phrase to be in the simple past tense (said) while CBE/CSE uses the present perfect tense (has said) and Chicago style uses the simple present (says)*

MLA style signal phrases consist of the name and qualification of your source followed by a verb which reflects his or her tone, attitude and position:

Shawn Bascom, International Student Coordinator, **claims that** "...";

Dr. Hatzenbuehler, history professor at ISU, **points out that** "...";

As President Arthor Vailas **notes**, "...";

Governor Schwarzenegger **fears that**

Signal phrases introduce paraphrases, summaries and direct quotations; here are some examples of verbs you can use in your signal phrases:

acknowledges	confirms	insinuates	retorts
adds	contends	insists	reveals
admits	counters	labels	says
affirms	counterattacks	mentions	speculates
agrees	declares	notes	states
answers	defines	observes	suggests
argues	denies	points out	surmises
asks	disputes	predicts	tells
asserts	echoes	proposes	thinks
attacks	emphasizes	reasons	warns
believes	endorses	recognizes	writes
calls	estimates	recommends	
claims	finds	refutes	
comments	grants	rejects	
compares	illustrates	reports	
concedes	implies	responds	

Verbs used in APA style signal phrases
(adapted from Diana Hacker's *Rules for Writers* 5th ed. p. 408)

Note: MLA and Chicago styles require the verb in a signal phrase to be in the simple present tense (says), while CBE/CSE uses the present perfect tense (has said)

APA style signal phrases consist of the last name (family name) of your source followed by the year of publication in parentheses and a verb which reflects his or her tone, attitude and position

Hatzenbuehler (2000) **claimed that** "...";

Adkison and Leonard (2001) **countered that** "...";

However, Vailas (2002) **insisted that** ... ;

Croker (2003) **feared that**

Signal phrases introduce paraphrases, summaries and direct quotations; here are some examples of verbs you can use in your signal phrases:

acknowledged	compared	illustrated	reported
added	confirmed	implied	responded
admitted	contended	insinuated	retorted
affirmed	countered	insisted	revealed
agreed	counterattacked	labeled	said
answered	declared	mentioned	speculated
argued	defined	noted	stated
asked	denied	observed	suggested
asserted	disputed	pointed out	surmised
attacked	echoed	predicted	told (someone)
believed	emphasized	reasoned	thought
called	endorsed	recognized	warned
claimed	estimated	recommended	wrote
claimed	found	refuted	
commented	granted	rejected	