Dear Murphy Institute Students,

Do you use “says” or “states” too much when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing an author’s ideas or responses? If so, today’s tip offers a variety of different ways to describe what and how an author makes their point(s) using different signal verbs.

### Signal Verbs

#### When author makes a claim:
- Argue
- Assert
- Believe
- Claim
- Emphasize
- Insist
- Observe
- Remind us
- Report
- Suggest

#### When author recommends:
- Advocate
- Call for
- Demand
- Encourage
- Exhort
- Implore
- Plead
- Recommend
- Urge
- Warn

#### When author agrees:
- Acknowledge
- Admire
- Agree
- Endorse
- Extol
- Praise
- Reaffirm
- Corroborate
- Support
- Verify

#### When author disagrees:
- Complain
- Complicate
- Contend
- Contradict
- Deny
- Qualify
- Question
- Refute
- Reject
- Renounce

Review what the author writes and decide which of the words above best describes what they are doing:

Are they suggesting something? Demanding a change? Praising an idea? Questioning an idea? Advocating for a certain approach? Rejecting a conclusion?

Using these words instead of “says” or “states” will make your writing stronger!

Smith (2008) advocates for this diet.

Coleman (2018) rejects those findings and instead suggests that the methods are faulty.

Puckett (2016) emphasizes the need to evaluate the situation further.

**Remember:** the words above are not interchangeable – make sure to look up the exact definition of the word you want to use to make sure you use it correctly!

As always: Remind yourselves what you have accomplished, and Best of Luck!

### Sign Up for a One-On-One Tutoring Session

1. Visit [https://murphy.mywconline.net/](https://murphy.mywconline.net/)
2. Register for an account
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4. Choose any of the available white rectangles.
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If you have questions or want to put this into practice, feel free to contact me! 😊