

Key Vocabulary Terms for Discussing Texts and Arguments:

Many students find it difficult to think of the correct academic English vocabulary terms needed to summarize and discuss a text. Here is an extensive list of verbs that a student can use when referring to texts and ideas:

Account for, analyze, argue, assess, assert, assume, claim, clarify, compare, conclude, criticize, defend, define, demonstrate, depict, describe, determine, distinguish, emphasize, evaluate, examine, exemplify, exhibit, explain, frame, identify, illustrate, imply, indicate, investigate, judge, justify, narrate, persuade, propose, question, recognize, reflect, refer to, report, review, and suggest.

Verbs for Referring to Sources:

The writer can indicate their attitude about the sources they cite by choosing specific verbs. It is important to avoid writing “Author X says” repeatedly in your essay because the reader wants to see a variety of vocabulary in the sentences. Not only is having “Author X says” mentioned multiple times repetitive, but it is also boring and demonstrates to the reader that you lack key academic English reporting verbs. Here is a comprehensive list of reporting verbs that can be used:

Acknowledge, admit, agree, allege, argue, argue against, assert, assume, believe, claim, conclude, consider, criticize, decide, demonstrate, deny, determine, discover, doubt, empathize, explain, find, hypothesize, imply, indicate, infer, maintain, note, object, observe, point out, posit, prove, recommend, refute, reveal, say, show, state, suggest, and think.

References

- Bauer-Ramazani, C. (2018, June 21). *Guidelines for using IN-TEXT CITATIONS in a SUMMARY (or RESEARCH PAPER)*. St. Michael's College. <http://academics.smcvt.edu/cbauer-ramazani/AEP/EN104/summary.htm>
- Knott, D. (n.d.) *Writing an annotated bibliography*. University of Toronto. <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/types-of-writing/annotated-bibliography/>
- Johnston, M. (n.d.). *Verbs for referring to sources*. University of Toronto. <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/english-language/referring-to-sources/>