

When writing a paper that includes other writers' voices, it can be helpful to vary the word choices to make your writing more active and descriptive. One way to do this is to use **signal verbs**, which are verbs that indicate how someone is expressing their ideas. Signal verbs can be used to give variety and context to writing, indicating agreement, disagreement, interaction, point of view, etc. Signal verbs indicate *how* someone is saying something, rather than just that they are saying it.

Below are some of the most common signal verbs used in sentences to show how it creates more active sentences and provides stronger context for your readers.

- The Learning Hub's tutors **agree** that writing is challenging but can also be very rewarding.
- The Learning Hub **argues** that strong note-taking skills makes you a better reader.
- Tutors **claim** getting started on a project early will result in better grades.
- Dr. Ray **concluded** the help her students received from The Hub improved their writing skills.
- Students often **disagree** on the best way to outline a paper, but that's okay!
- Students **discussed** their time management strategies in The Hub's Academic Skills workshop.
- The students can **explore** the various resources available on The Learning Hub's website.
- The student's grades **illustrate** the benefits of visiting The Learning Hub.
- The writing tutor **observed** her student working hard revising her paper.
- The student **says** that her writing tutor helped her get an A on her paper.
- The Learning Hub's website **shows** how students can make an appointment with a tutor.
- The sign out front **states** The Learning Hub's business hours and contact information.
- Professor Ramirez **suggests** that his students attend Hub workshops for extra credit.
- The Learning Hub **supports** the idea that good pre-writing strategies result in a stronger paper.
- The Learning Hub's tutors **think** every student can succeed if they put in the work.

While the examples on the previous page are some of the more common signal verbs, below is a list of additional words and a phrase you can use to make your writing more interesting, specific, and active. However, be sure to look up the definitions of these words and the phrase so that you are using the right word/phrase for your context and purpose.

acknowledges	considers	inquires	reiterates
addresses	contrasts	insists	remarks
adds	criticizes	interprets	replies
admits	critiques	investigates	reports
advises	declares	iterates	responds
affirms	defines	lists	reveals
agrees	delineates	maintains	reviews
allows	demonstrates	makes the case	says
analyzes	describes	measures	sees
answers	determines	notes	shows
argues	disagrees	objects	speculates
ascertains	discovers	observes	states
asks	discusses	offers	stipulates
asserts	disproves	opposes	stresses
assesses	disputes	points out	submits
believes	emphasizes	posits	suggests
categorizes	envisions	postulates	summarizes
charges	evaluates	presents	supports
cites	examines	proposes	supposes
claims	explains	propounds	surveys
comments	explores	proves	synthesizes
compares	expounds	purports	theorizes
complains	expresses	qualifies	thinks
concedes	finds	questions	traces
concludes	furnishes	rationalizes	views
concur	identifies	refers to	warns
confirms	illustrates	refines	writes