



Verbs Describing Author's Attitude

Verbs that indicate the source author's attitude or approach to what he or she is saying:

| Author is Neutral | Author Implies or Suggests | Author Argues | Author Agrees | Author is Uneasy or Disparaging |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Comments | Analyzes | Claims | Admits | Belittles |
| Describes | Asks | Contends | Agrees | Bemoans |
| Explains | Assesses | Defends | Concedes | Complains |
| Illustrates | Concludes | Disagrees | Concurs | Condemns |
| Notes | Considers | Holds | Grants | Deplores |
| Observes | Finds | Insists | | Deprecates |
| Points out | Predicts | Maintains | | Derides |
| Records | Proposes | | | Laments |
| Relates | Reveals | | | Warns |
| Reports | Shows | | | |
| Says | Speculates | | | |
| Sees | Suggests | | | |
| Thinks | Supposes | | | |
| Writes | | | | |

Source: Aaron, J.E. (1995). *The little, brown compact handbook* (2nd ed.). New York: Harper Collins, p. 220.

Examples:

Author is Neutral:

APA Smith (2004) *reports* that last month's precipitation was far above average.

MLA Aiden Smith *reports* that last month's precipitation was far above average (34).

Author Infers or Suggests:

APA Doe (1988) *reveals* that the Prime Minister had no intention of keeping his promises.

MLA Jane Doe *reveals* that the Prime Minister had no intention of keeping his promises (89).

Author Argues:

APA Doe (1999) *insists* that the data is not accurate.

MLA Doe *insists* that the data is not accurate (102, 127).

Author Agrees:

APA Smith (2001) *concurs* with Doe's findings on the smoking habits of teenagers.

MLA Smith *concurs* with Doe's findings on the smoking habits of teenagers (201-202).

Author is Uneasy or Disparaging:

APA Researchers *warn* that a lack of exercise may lead to heart disease (Blaine, 2009; Jones, 2010; Leduc & Porter, 2010).

MLA Researchers *warn* that a lack of exercise may lead to heart disease (Blaine 35; Jones 123; Leduc and Porter 141).

You have the tools. We help you use them.