Signal phrases are used to introduce paraphrased, summarized, or quoted material and attribute it to the original source. Signal phrases provide a transition between your ideas and the sources you are using for support and evidence. They “signal” that you are about to use language or state an idea that is not your own.

Some signal phrases are in the form of a simple introductory phrase. Others include a signal verb that describes how the source is being used. Below are some examples of signal phrases and verbs. In your writing, try to vary these examples and come up with some of your own.

**Sample Signal Phrases**

According to X, “___.”
Recent studies show that ____.
In her book, ____ X maintains that “___.”
Writing in the journal XxYyZz, X complains that ___.
In X’s opinion, “___.”
X acknowledges that ____.
X reports that ____.

In the words of X, “___.”
As X has noted, “___.”
X offers a persuasive argument: “___.”
X agrees/disagrees when he writes, “___.”
X states “___.”
X concedes, “___.”
X believes that ____.

**Sample Signal Verbs Used in Signal Phrases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>acknowledge</th>
<th>cite</th>
<th>deny</th>
<th>insist</th>
<th>report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>add</td>
<td>claim</td>
<td>discuss</td>
<td>note</td>
<td>respond</td>
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<tr>
<td>admit</td>
<td>comment</td>
<td>dispute</td>
<td>observe</td>
<td>suggest</td>
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<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>compare</td>
<td>emphasize</td>
<td>point out</td>
<td>think</td>
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<td>argue</td>
<td>confirm</td>
<td>endorse</td>
<td>reason</td>
<td>write</td>
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<td>assert</td>
<td>contend</td>
<td>illustrate</td>
<td>refute</td>
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<tr>
<td>believe</td>
<td>declare</td>
<td>imply</td>
<td>reject</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**In MLA style**

Use present tense verbs to introduce source material unless the time of writing is specified.

**Examples**

Jones suggests that . . .
Jones contends, “. . .”
In 2012, Jones suggested that . . .

**In APA style**

• Use past tense or present perfect tense verbs to introduce source material.

**Examples**

Jones (2012) suggested that . . .
Jones (2012) has suggested that . . .

• Use present tense verbs to discuss the results of an experiment or knowledge that has clearly been established.

**Examples**

The results demonstrate . . .
Researchers agree . . .