

Verbs Describing Author's Attitude

When discussing sources, it is important to use verbs that accurately indicate the author's attitude or approach to what they are saying.

Author is Neutral	Author Implies/Suggests	Author Argues	Author Agrees	Author is Uneasy/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.). Harper Collins, p. 220.

Examples

Author is neutral:

APA Smith (2022) 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/suggests:

APA Doe (2018) 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 (2019) insists that the data is not accurate.

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

Author agrees:

APA Smith (2020) 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/disparaging:

APA Researchers warn that a lack of exercise may lead to heart disease (Blaine, 2023; Jones, 2022; Leduc & Porter, 2021).

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