

## REPORTING VERBS

In academic writing, you can refer to ideas or research of others by using reporting verbs, e.g. *Brown (2011) states that....* Your choice of reporting verb can show the reader how you feel about the research you are quoting or paraphrasing, e.g. *Smith (2010) shows ...* vs. *Smith (2010) advises to....* vs. *Smith (2010) challenges ...*

Using the same reporting word all the time will make your writing sound repetitive. Here is a list of common reporting verbs:

Neutral	Tentative	Strong (in favour)	Strong (against)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to show</li> <li>• to demonstrate</li> <li>• to investigate</li> <li>• to explore</li> <li>• to state</li> <li>• to report</li> <li>• to list</li> <li>• to describe</li> <li>• to outline</li> <li>• to note</li> <li>• to comment</li> <li>• to express</li> <li>• to remark</li> <li>• to declare</li> <li>• to inform</li> <li>• to discuss</li> <li>• to define</li> <li>• to mention</li> <li>• to address</li> <li>• to present</li> <li>• to reveal</li> <li>• to find</li> <li>• to view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to suggest</li> <li>• to propose</li> <li>• to advise</li> <li>• to recommend</li> <li>• to speculate</li> <li>• to hypothesise</li> <li>• to reason</li> <li>• to imply</li> <li>• to postulate</li> <li>• to question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to assert</li> <li>• to advocate</li> <li>• to encourage</li> <li>• to argue</li> <li>• to affirm</li> <li>• to believe</li> <li>• to appraise</li> <li>• to conclude</li> <li>• to stress</li> <li>• to emphasise</li> <li>• to accentuate</li> <li>• to urge</li> <li>• to insist</li> <li>• to claim</li> <li>• to convince</li> <li>• to satisfy</li> <li>• to confirm</li> <li>• to support the view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to challenge</li> <li>• to dispute</li> <li>• to disagree</li> <li>• to refute</li> <li>• to negate</li> <li>• to object</li> <li>• to contradict</li> <li>• to dismiss</li> <li>• to caution</li> <li>• to doubt</li> <li>• to oppose</li> </ul>

Examples	Your Position
Jones (2013) notes that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style.	Neutral
It has been suggested that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style (Jones, 2013).	Tentative – other opinions may be present
Jones's (2013) study affirms that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style.	Strong – evidence in favour of an argument
A study by Jones (2013) challenges the view that using a variety of reporting verbs can improve students' writing style.	Strong – evidence against an argument