

Reporting Verbs

Reporting verbs (e.g., points out, discusses, contends, and challenges) are used in academic writing to introduce and attribute others' ideas, showing how sources contribute to and support your argument.

Here are four examples of how to use reporting verbs: (*italics added*)

- Nualnetr2 (1996) **points out** the gap between what is widely known and what is still conjecture in the physiology of ageing. She **warns**, "It should be noted that ...".
- Roszak (1986) **discusses** the limitations...
- Pascarelli and Quilter3 (1994) **contend** that it is "almost impossible to keep abreast of all the advances in medicine" (p. 9).
- Gibbs **challenges** those who assume they are fully aware of what they are communicating, **asserting** that this must never happen (as cited in Donn & Schick, 1995).

Turning quotes into paraphrases using reporting verbs:

It is better not to use too many quotes, but to paraphrase. This also allows you to use the bits of information you want in fewer words while leaving out parts that aren't relevant for your use. You must take care not to change the meaning of what the original author wrote.

Here is the original text:

An unhealthy combination of stressors produces a dangerous chain reaction in the adrenal system. Stress can kill, as in the case of heart disease, but there are other unpleasant "**diseases of stress**": high blood pressure, ulcer, and even cancer. Someone joked that the most effective form of stress management can be summed up in two words: Say no. (Pascarelli & Quilter, 1994, p. 37)

Here are the different ways you can use the information in your essay:

- **According** to Pascarelli and Quilter (1994), too much stress can kill.
- Pascarelli and Quilter (1994) **explain** that some combinations of stressors can affect the adrenal system, leading to physical illnesses such as heart disease or even cancer.
- Pascarelli and Quilter (1994) **assert** that stress can even cause cancer.

Or sometimes you may not need either an introductory verb or a page reference. In the following example, the "No" is too brief to be regarded as a quote, but the idea is not the writer's, so this considered paraphrasing.

- An effective way of reducing stress can be to say, "No" (Pascarelli & Quilter, 1994).

Reporting Verbs

Here is a list of reporting verbs you can use in your academic writing:

Formal verbs					
According to ...	Claims	Doubts	Insists	Proves	Suggests
Adds	Clarifies	Emphasises	Maintains	Questions	Supports
Affirms	Comments	Establishes	Mentions	Recommends	Theorises
Agrees	Concludes	Explains	Notes	Refers to	Warns
Analyses	Concurs	Expresses	Outlines	Refutes	Writes
Argues	Considers	Finds	Points out	Remarks	
Asserts	Contends	In ...'s opinion	Predicts	Reports	
Believes	Describes	In ...'s view	Presents	Shows	
Challenges	Disagrees	Indicates	Proposes	States	