

## Using Attributive Language when Summarizing

When you write using sources, it is important to attribute the information or opinion from a source to the author who originally wrote it. Depending on the verb you choose to do this, you can also indicate more. For example:

STATEMENT: Verbs that simply indicate what an author or article says include the	
states says writes notes explains discusses	<p><i>Botticelli <b>notes</b> in "Landscape Painting" that his...</i></p> <p><i>In the article, Rembrandt <b>states</b> that the price...</i></p>

OPINION: Verbs that imply that an author is giving her personal point of view include:	
believes maintains claims asserts	<p><i>Space aliens are all around us, <b>claims</b> Pollack in his book...</i></p> <p><i>Despite the physical evidence, Van Gogh <b>asserts</b> that...</i></p>

DISAGREEMENT: Verbs that indicate an opposing viewpoint include	
challenges disputes rejects contradicts	<p><i>Frankenthaler <b>challenges</b> the notion that motorcyclists...</i></p> <p><i>At the other end of the spectrum is Vermeer, who <b>contradicts</b> the insurance companies' claims, saying that...</i></p>

AGREEMENT: Verbs that indicate a similar viewpoint (often to one just mentioned)	
verifies confirms affirms agrees	<p><i>Michelangelo <b>verifies</b> that this interpretation is common...</i></p> <p><i>We must learn to respect the sea, <b>agrees</b> Kahlo in her 1999 essay on sea otters.</i></p>

### LANGUAGE FOR REFERRING TO AN AUTHOR'S IDEAS:

#### These verbs are followed by "that + clause"

reports <del>that</del>	argues <del>that</del>	believes <del>that</del>	points out <del>that</del>	proposes <del>that</del>
states <del>that</del>	claims <del>that</del>	thinks <del>that</del>	observes <del>that</del>	suggests <del>that</del>
explains <del>that</del>	asserts <del>that</del>	feels <del>that</del>	urges <del>that</del>	complains <del>that</del>
implies <del>that</del>	shows <del>that</del>	demonstrates <del>that</del>	predicts <del>that</del>	illustrates <del>that</del>

#### These verbs are followed by a noun, noun clause, gerund, or noun phrase

describes <del>that</del>	analyzes	agrees with	proposes <del>that</del>	presents <del>that</del>
discusses <del>that</del>	examines	calls for	criticizes <del>that</del>	gives
wonders <del>that</del>	asks	complains about	disagrees with	