

# The Thesis Whisperer verb cheat sheet

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Verbs are judgmental. The verb you use to describe someone else's work indicates your feeling about the *quality* of the work. For instance, "Mewburn (2010) argues..." is kinder than "Mewburn (2010) asserts..." (a scholar who asserts is not really a scholar at all).

Choose your feeling, and then pick a verb from the list that fits your sentence. Or just scan the list for best fit. This is the list I made to put on my own wall – you may disagree with my categories. Feel free to change it to suit your style.

<b>This work is awesome!</b>		
argues	concludes	explains
demonstrates	differentiates	identifies
critiques	deduces	discriminates
evaluates	proves	assesses
examines	distinguishes	predicts
proposes	assesses	integrates
discusses	illustrates	outlines
<b>I feel neutral</b>		
shows	applies	outlines
composes	proposes	uses
states	organises	differentiates
uses	produces	examines
separates	develops	appraises
selects	performs	illustrates
interprets	paraphrases	reports
prepares	restates	reviews
uses	classifies	contrasts
debates	relates	produces
<b>This work is poor</b>		
asserts	chooses	justifies
invents	uses	constructs
states	makes	selects
recalls	recites	tells
generalises	changes	characterises

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