

THE SIGNAL PHRASE

WHAT IS A SIGNAL PHRASE?

- This is a phrase that signals to readers the introduction of a direct quote, summary or paraphrase and includes the source or the author’s name
- Signal phrases can include additional information about the source like the author’s background or occupation and/or the title of the source

WHY ARE SIGNAL PHRASES IMPORTANT?

1. They create a transition from your writing to the information from your source
2. They emphasize where you got your information from
3. They are used to avoid plagiarism by citing the source. Additional information may need to be provided depending on the formatting of the paper

PHRASES AND EXAMPLES:

Acknowledges	Adds	Admits	Agrees
Argues	Asserts	Believes	Claims
Comments	Disputes	Emphasizes	Finds
Illustrates	Implies	Insists	Notes
Observes	Offers	Points Out	Reasons
Rejects	Remarks	Reports	Responds
States	Suggests	Thinks	Writes

Example 1:

The survey conducted by Pew Research reports that. . .

Example 2:

Smith, a New York Times reporter, asserts that. . .

REMEMBER:

Try not to introduce in-text citations in the same manner. Often times, writers have favorite phrases and words and tend to use these frequently. You can avoid this by varying your signal phrase verbs.

For example: *John Doe states that. . .*

Perhaps try: *John Doe acknowledges that. . .* Or *John Doe emphasizes. . .*

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