

Verbs Used in MLA Style Signal Phrases (adapted from Diana Hacker's *Rules for Writers* 5th ed., p. 408)

Note: *APA style requires the verb in a signal phrase to be in the simple past tense (said).*

MLA style signal phrases consist of the name and qualification of your source followed by a verb which reflects his or her tone, attitude and position:

Tiffani Warren, Dean of Student Success, **claims that** "...";
Lori King, history professor at WCCC, **points out that** "...";
Governor Schwarzenegger **fears that**

Signal phrases introduce paraphrases, summaries and direct quotations; here are some examples of verbs you can use in your signal phrases:

acknowledges	confirms	insinuates	retorts
adds	contends	insists	reveals
admits	counters	labels	says
affirms	counterattacks	mentions	speculates
agrees	declares	notes	states
answers	defines	observes	suggests
argues	denies	points out	surmises
asks	disputes	predicts	tells
asserts	echoes	proposes	thinks
attacks	emphasizes	reasons	warns
believes	endorses	recognizes	writes
calls	estimates	recommends	
claims	finds	refutes	
comments	grants	rejects	
compares	illustrates	reports	
concedes	implies	responds	