



Verbs for Reporting

Writing Centre Learning Guide

In academic writing, you will often need to refer to the research of others, also called secondary sources. A reporting verb is a

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Example sentences

Remember that the tense you use for your reporting verb will depend on your style guide. Some styles prefer present tense while others prefer past tense.

Boynton (1982, p. 79) **warns** the reader that ordinary chocolate is 'too frail to withstand heat, moisture and proximity to baked beans'.

Hanks (2004, p. 257) **defines** an idiom **as** an expression whose 'meaning . . . is distinct from the sum of its parts'.

Smith (2005) **disagrees with** Fry (2003) when she **maintains that** many students have trouble with reporting verbs.

Some people **subscribe to** the idea that chocolate is unhealthy, but Boynton's (1982) book **refutes** this claim.

This paper **investigates** the effects of alcohol on memory and **stresses that** further research be done as a matter of urgency.

References

Boynton, S. (1982). *Chocolate: The consuming passion*. London: Methuen.

Hanks, P. (2004). The syntagmatics of metaphor and idiom. *International Journal of Lexicography*, 17 (3), 245-274.

Useful resources

Websites

<http://www.academicenglishcafe.com/reporting-verbs.html>

http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/reporting_verbs.php

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/learning_english/leap/grammar/reportingverbs

<http://www.york.ac.uk/rop/verbs.html>

Printables

http://www.awc.metu.edu.tr/handouts/Verbs_to_Introduce_Paraphrases_and_Quotations.pdf

<http://www.york.ac.uk/rop/documents/reportingverbfunctions.pdf>