

Critical Reading and Writing - Reporting verbs: structure and attitude

	<i>structure</i>	<i>meaning</i>
Acknowledges	+ that clause or + noun	Refers to facts that may not support the writer's argument (neg)
Addresses	+ noun	Gives some attention to
Admits	+ that clause or + noun	Feels obliged to state something contrary to the writer's argument (neg)
Alleges	+ that clause	States that something is wrong without proof (neg)
Analyses	+ noun / <i>how/why</i>	Examines in detail
Argues	+ that clause	Gives reasons why they hold an opinion
Assesses	+ noun or + <i>how/why</i>	Judges the quality / quantity / importance of something
Assumes	+ that clause	Accepts without question or proof (neg)
Calculates	+ that clause or + noun	Estimates using factual information
Challenges	+ noun	Argues strongly against
Characterises	+ noun + <i>as</i> + noun	Describes by stating main qualities
Claims	+ that clause	States opinion without sufficient evidence (neg)
Classifies	+ noun + <i>into</i> + plural noun	Divides into groups
Comments on	+ noun	Briefly expresses an opinion about something
Compares	+ noun + <i>to</i> or <i>with</i> + noun	Describes similarities / differences
Concludes	+ that clause	Decides something is true based on facts
Contrasts	+ noun + <i>with</i> + noun	Describes differences
Criticises	+ noun	Points out faults
Deduces	+ that clause	Decides something is true based on logic and evidence
Defines	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Explains the meaning / outlines exactly what is included
Demonstrates	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Shows by giving evidence
Describes	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Outlines the characteristic features
Discusses	+ noun or + <i>how/why</i>	Gives different points of view about something
Elaborates on	+ noun	Gives more information
Elucidates	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Explains clearly
Enumerates	+ plural noun	Lists things separately
Establishes	+ that clause or + noun	Proves
Estimates	+ that clause or + noun	Predicts using facts
Evaluates	+ noun	Judges the quality / importance
Examines	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Considers carefully and in detail
Explains	+ noun or + <i>how/why</i>	Gives the reasons for something
Finds	+ that clause or + noun	Discovers
Highlights	+ noun	Emphasises, draws attention to
Hypothesises	+ that clause	Gives an explanation based on fact and reason but as yet without proof
Identifies	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Draws attention to or discovers something
Illustrates	+ noun + <i>with</i> / <i>by</i>	Shows the meaning by giving examples
Implies	+ that clause	Suggests something without saying it directly (sometimes neg)
Indicates	+ that clause or + noun or + <i>how/why</i>	Shows
Infers	+ that clause	Decides something is true based on evidence
Interprets	+ noun + <i>as</i> + noun	Suggests a meaning for something
Investigates	+ noun or + <i>how/why</i>	Considers in depth the reasons for something
Justifies	+ noun	Gives good reasons for doing something
Lists	+ noun	Mentions a number of factors / components
Maintains	+ that clause	Expresses a strong opinion against opposition
Mentions	+ that clause or + noun	Refers to briefly
Notes	+ that clause or + noun	Draws attention to a particular fact
Outlines	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Describes the main points
Points out	+ that clause or + noun	Draws attention to a fact or mistake
Proves	+ that clause	Shows something to be true using evidence
Refers to	+ noun	Mentions something briefly
Relates	+ noun + <i>to</i> + noun	Makes a connection between
Reports	+ that clause	Describes the results of experiments or observations
Reviews	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Surveys the whole field of study
Shows	+ that clause or + noun or + <i>how/why</i>	Demonstrates, makes clear
Speculates	+ that clause	Gives an opinion without evidence
States	+ that clause or + noun	Expresses clearly and carefully
Studies	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Examines carefully
Suggests	+ that clause or + <i>how/why</i>	Proposes an idea
Traces	+ noun or + <i>how</i>	Shows the path of development