the Writing center
NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY BROKEN ARROW

Active Verbs

Acquiring a rich repertoire of signal words and phrases is the key to success in representing others' ideas in academic writing. The list below provides some examples of strong verbs to use in signal phrases. Remember, APA recommends the use of past tense or present perfect tense of verbs if the discussion is of past events. Use present tense to discuss implications of research results or to report conclusions. (Sources: Purdue OWL, *APA Publication Manual*, 6th ed.)

Acknowledge	Evaluate
Address	Formulate
Argue	Found
Ascribe	Gear
Assert	Hold
Attempt	Identify
Believe	Indicate
Charted	Inspect
Claims	Interpret
Clarify	Investigate
Collect	Maintain
Conclude	Note
Concur (agree)	Organize
Confirm	Offer
Consider	Present
Contend	Provide
Critique	Rate
Describe	Realize
Demonstrate	Report
Diagnose	Review
Emphasize	Summarize
Envision	Survey
Examine	

Writing Center in Broken Arrow
Committed to Creating Stronger Writers in all Disciplines
BALB 226
www.nsuok.edu/wcba