

# Powerful and meaningful verbs to use in your analyses

## STRONG VS. WEAK VERBS

To help you move away from summary and toward ANALYSIS, you need to begin to incorporate strong verbs into your writing when discussing the writer's rhetorical choices. Below is a list of verbs that are considered weak because they imply summary and a list of verbs that are considered strong because they imply analysis. Strive to use the stronger verbs in your essays to help push yourself away from summary and toward analysis: "The writer flatters..." NOT "The writer says..."

### WEAKER VERBS (Summary)

says  
relates  
states  
this quote shows  
tells

### STRONGER VERBS (Analysis)

Acknowledge	Address	Admonish	Analyze	Apply
Argue	Assert	Augment	Broaden	Calculate
Capitalize	Characterize	Claim	Clarify	Compare
Complicate	Confine	Connect	Consider	Construct
Continue	Contradict	Contrast	Convince	Correct
Create	Critique	Declare	Deduce	Defend
Define	Demonize	Demonstrate	Denigrate	Deny
Describe	Determine	Differentiate	Disagree	Discard
Discover	Discuss	Dismiss	Distinguish	Duplicate
Elaborate	Emphasize	Employ	Enable	Engage
Enhance	Enumerate	Establish	Evaluate	Exacerbate
Examine	Exclude	Exhibit	Expand	Explain
Exploit	Expound	Express	Extend	Facilitate
Feature	Flatter	Forecast	Formulate	Fracture
Generalize	Group	Guide	Hamper	Hypothesize
Identify	Illuminate	Illustrate	Impair	Implement
Implicate	Imply	Improve	Include	Incorporate
Indicate	Initiate	Inquire	Instigate	Integrate
Interpret	Intervene	Invert	Isolate	Justify
Lionize	List	Locate	Loosen	Maintain
Manifest	Manipulate	Measure	Merge	Minimize
Modify	Monitor	Narrate	Negate	Nullify
Obscure	Observe	Obtain	Offer	Omit
Optimize	Organize	Outline	Overstate	Persist
Point out	Possess	Praise	Predict	Present

Probe	Produce	Promote	Propose	Prove
Provide	Qualify	Quantify	Question	Realize
Recommend	Reconstruct	Redefine	Reduce	Refer
Reference	Refine	Reflect	Refute	Regard
Reject	Relate	Rely	Remove	Repair
Report	Represent	Resolve	Retrieve	Reveal
Revise	Ridicule	Separate	Shape	Signify
Simulate	Solve	Specify	Structure	Suggest
Summarize	Support	Suspend	Sustain	Tailor
Terminate	Testify	Theorize	Translate	Trivialize
Undermine	Understand	Unify	Utilize	Validate
Vary	View	Vilify	Vindicate	Warn
Yield				