Signal / Reporting Verbs

Signal / reporting verbs help to create a distinction between your voice and the ideas of the sources you referred to as support.

Writers should try to vary the choice of signal / reporting verbs to maintain variety and reader interest, *but writers should also choose the verb that appropriately characterizes the context of the idea being borrowed*. Signal / reporting verbs also help to synthesize and integrate your sources smoothly into your own writing.

Strong argument	Neutral	Acquiesce	Counter argument	Suggestion	Emphasis	Criticism	Conclusion
argue	discuss	accept	refute the claim	suggest	emphasize	criticize	infer
claim	state	acknowledge	argue against	recommend	stress	critique	conclude
contend	report	admit	dispute	imply	focus	judge	deduce
maintain	explain	concede	disregard	hint	assert	comment	end
insist	illustrate	grant	disagree	insinuate	endorse	examine	resolve
posit	observe	restate	disconfirm	propose	insist	notice	reveal
assert	comment	agree	challenge	advocate	affirm	review	arrange
support	define	comply	defy	note	confirm	uncover	finish
emphasize	reason	resign	contradict	hypothesize	underline	warn	result
endorse	declare	ratify	contend	indicate	accentuate	analyze	judge
show	describe	approve	differ	provide	expand	point out	find