

Reading into Writing
Citing Sources with Style

This grid contains verbs you can use to present a writer or speaker's ideas clearly and precisely without losing your own voice.
The Writer...

acknowledges adds admits (that) advocates (something) analyses argues (that) articulates (a view/idea) asks asserts (that)	attributes attacks attempts (to do something) avoids bears (a resemblance to...) belongs to calls on (someone to do something)	claims (that) comments on compares condemns concludes contends (that) contrasts continues	counters criticises deals with declares (that) defines denies (that) deplores describes	determines (that) discusses disputes distinguishes emphasises (that) examines explains explicates explores	expresses extends feels finds (that) foregrounds forms focuses on fulfils (He has fulfilled what he sees as...)
gives examples goes (on to say that) identifies incorporates insists (that) intervenes in judges justifies	lists links locates mediates notes (has noted) observes (that) offers (an overview)	opposes provides positions (himself) puts forward the image of... questions refers to	reflects on replies (that) rejects resorts to shows (that) sees (the need for) situates (himself or his idea)	speaks states (that) stresses (that) suggests (that) supports symbolises talks about tends to	treats tries to uses views (something as) wishes writes (that)

You can also use the phrases below to present a text/writer (X = the writer)

X's work testifies to...	For X, it represents...	For X, something is...	X follows one idea with...	X then turns this into...	X does not seem fully aware of...
X's position is that...	X's conclusion is that...	X's main focus is...	For X something is true...	X's main points are...	

The following sentences are examples of specific ways that one writer (Val Kennedy) presents another writer's (Edward Said's) ideas using some of the verbs above:

- “In *An Ideology of Difference*, he **argues** that a philosophy of racial difference is used to justify the unequal treatment of Israel's Arab population, while *Permission to narrate* **explicates** his view of the ideological function of the concept of terrorism in the American media” (56).
- “Said **sees** the unsuccessful Palestinian attack on Maabt in Israel in May 1974 **as a response to** ‘weeks of sustained Israeli napalm bombing of Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon’” (57).
- “He particularly **condemns** the hypocrisy and double standards of many American liberals who fail to speak out about human rights abuses in Israel” (58).
- “In *The Question of Palestine* and elsewhere, Said first **puts** the image of Palestinians as terrorists **in perspective**” (56).
- “The essays in *The Politics of Dispossession* **develop** Said's dissection of the image of the Palestinians as terrorists” (56).
- “In *Identity, negation and violence* (1988), Said **notes** that Islam, Arabs, and specifically Palestinians are associated with terrorism” (57).
- “In a 1998 interview with W.J. Mitchell, Said **explains** that ”(72).
- “Somewhat similar problems of positioning occur in Said's essays on the Gulf War” (74).
- “Later in the article, Said **resorts to using** “we”, “our” and “ours”, to express further splits” (76).
- “...as the 1991 interview with David Barsamian makes clear” (77).
- “Indeed, much of Said's writing from *The Question of Palestine* onwards **has focused on** the ways in which Islam and the Palestinian issue have been subject to biased reporting” (79).
- “In a discussion with Eugenio Donato, he **accepts** Donato's argument that...” (79)
- “Throughout *The Question of Palestine*, Said repeatedly **stresses** that the Palestinians should be considered as a nation...” (51).
- “In *A Place Among Nations: Israel and the World*, Benjamin Netanyahu **quotes** the works of...”(52).
- “Thus Said **is forced to state** openly in *The Question of Palestine* that 'to write critically about Zionism in Palestine has therefore never meant, and does not mean now, being anti-semitic'” (55).
- “In relation to the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, the search for an alternative means to search for a secular state, something which Said **has emphasised** in *After the Last Sky* and in *the Politics of dispossession*” (70).
- “In more recent articles, however, Said **seems to** implicitly **acknowledge** the 'utopian' nature of such a prospect although he still **declares** in 1998 that the only political vision worth holding on to is a secular bi-national one” (70).
- “Jan M. **has defined** Said's position as one version of *the specular border of the intellectual*” (72).
- “Said **gives** a detailed **critique** of the peace agreement” (65).

The examples and words in this handout have been prepared by the students of English 101.33 — English I for Graphic Design Students, Fall 2001, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. All words and quotes are taken from:

Kennedy, Valerie. *Edward Said: A Critical Introduction*. Polity Press in association with Blackwell Publishers Ltd. 2000 (pp 49 - 80).