

## Power Verbs

Summarizing, rather than analyzing, is one of the chief pitfalls of AP rhetorical analysis. Bland verbs, such as *says* or *relates* or *use/utilize*, tend to lead the reader into writing a summary unintentionally. Powerful verbs and verb phrases, when used correctly, will make your writing more analytical and incisive.

Suggest	Hints	Intimates	Implies	Questions
Casts	Sheds light	Clarifies	Masks	Notes
Observes	Asserts	Concedes	Qualifies	Affirms
Criticizes	Admonishes	Challenges	Debates	Excoriates
Berates	Belittles	Trivializes	Denigrates	Vilifies
Demonizes	Disparages	Ridicules	Mocks	Points out
Acknowledges	Emphasizes	Minimizes	Dismisses	Demonstrates
Underscores	Sugarcoats	Flatters	Lionizes	Praises
Exaggerates	Downplays	Explores	Articulates	Explores
Lists	Supports	Establishes	Evokes	Induces
Quotes	Cites	Draws attention to the irony	Calls attention to the details	Compares
Contrasts	Classifies	Defines	Narrates	Describes
Argues	Persuades	Analyzes	Explains	Exemplifies
Illustrates	Summarizes	Opens	Begins	Adds
Connects	Juxtaposes	Draws a parallel between	Foreshadows	Uses an analogy
Turns to	Shifts to	Transitions to	Concludes	Finishes
Closes	Ends	Exposes	Attacks	Satires

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