

Reporting Verbs

In the table below, the main reporting verbs in English are classified in terms of their function, and their strength.

Function and strength NEUTRAL: verbs used to say what the writer describes in factual terms, demonstrates, refers to, and discusses, and verbs used to explain his/her methodology.	Example verbs describe, show, reveal, study, demonstrate, note, point out, indicate, report, observe, assume, take into consideration, examine, go on to say that, state, believe (unless this is a strong belief), mention, etc.
Function and strength TENTATIVE: verbs used to say what the writer suggests or speculates on (without being absolutely certain).	Example verbs suggest, speculate, intimate, hypothesise, moot, imply, propose, recommend, posit the view that, question the view that, postulate, etc.
Function and strength STRONG: verbs used to say what the writer makes strong arguments and claims for.	Example verbs argue, claim, emphasise, contend, maintain, assert, theorize, support the view that, deny, negate, refute, reject, challenge, strongly believe that, counter the view/argument that, etc.