Verbs for Signal Phrases

One of the simplest ways to introduce a quote or paraphrase is to use a “signal phrase,” such as “he says...”

However, writers should avoid repeating “he/she says...” over and over again. Using that one signal phrase multiple times can become tiresome and dull. Using more specific verbs in place of “says” can add some more interest and flavor to your writing. Here are a few verbs you might consider in your signal phrases:

- Accepts
- Acknowledges
- Agrees
- Argues
- Believes
- Claims
- Concludes
- Declares
- Describes
- Emphasizes
- Explains
- Notes
- Observes
- Pleads
- Reports
- Speculates
- States
- Suggests
- Thinks
- Urges