

List of useful reporting verbs

Less endorsing <	Neutral	> More endorsing
admits	according to x	accounts for
asserts	analyses	affirms
assumes	argues	adds
believes	calculates	agrees
concedes	cites	concur
claims	comments	confirms
conjectures	compares	counters
dismisses	details	demonstrates
disregards	estimates	emphasises
favours	examines	highlights
generalises	finds	identifies
ignores	investigates	makes clear
implies	measures	proves
insists	notes	reasons
misattributes	observes	recognises
rejects	postulates	refutes
speculates	proposes	substantiates
subscribes to	remarks	throws light on
suggests	states	validates

7.3 Some common academic practices

Different kinds of writing speak to us in different voices, as you know by reading newspaper reports, advertisements, essays and legal documents. Academic style adopts a formal voice rather than a casual one such as we've adopted in this book. Academic style is more formal than newspapers but less so than legal writing.

The main feature of academic style is language that seeks to persuade by reason, objectivity and accuracy of facts, as opposed to emotionally charged, subjective or overly judgemental language.