

Power Verbs

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

suggests
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
minimizes
exposes
articulates
explores
lists
supports
establishes
evokes
induces
quotes
cites
draws attention to the
 irony
calls attention to
 details

Verbs Related to Rhetorical Modes of Development

compares
contrasts
classifies
defines
narrates

describes
argues
persuades
analyzes
explains
exemplifies
illustrates
summarizes

Structure Verbs

opens
begins
adds
connects
juxtaposes
draws a parallel
 between
foreshadows
uses an analogy
turns to
shifts to
transitions to
concludes
finishes
closes
ends