



Writing Center

Bowling Green State University
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TIPS:

If you are still having questions about **verbs of attribution**, then refer to your *Scott, Foresman Handbook, 7th edition*. Verbs of attribution are discussed on page 753 and listed on Chart 50.1.

Also, refer to our handout “Introducing Sources (MLA Style)” for information on using sources and quotations correctly in an essay.

Make an appointment with the Writing Center by calling 372-2221, or email us at writers@bgsu.edu if you have any more questions about your writing!

Revised by Amanda McGuire 2005

Moseley Hall Hours:

Mon - Thurs 9-5
Fri 9-3

Bromfield Satellite Hours:

Sun & Mon 6-10pm

MacDonald Satellite Hours:

Sun & Tues 6-10pm

H. S. R. C. Satellite Hours:

(membership required)
Sun - Thurs 7-11pm

Kohl Satellite Hours:

Wed 6-10pm

Verbs of Attribution

1. What is a verb of attribution?

- These are verbs that “introduce readers to materials you’ve gathered from sources,” (*The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers, 7th edition* 752).

2. What are some common verbs of attribution?

- Accept
- Add
- Admit
- Affirm
- Allege
- Argue
- Believe
- Confirm
- Deny
- Disagree
- Emphasize
- Insist
- Mention
- Posit
- Propose
- Reveal
- State
- Say
- Think
- Verify

3. How do you know which verb of attribution to use?

- As with so many things in writing, it depends on context.
- In an *argumentative* essay, try verbs like **affirm**, **argue**, **confirm**, **deny**, **disagree**, and **verify**, where applicable.
- For research essays, try introducing a quotation or paraphrase with verbs like **add**, **reveal**, **state**, **mention**, or **say**.
- If you mean to point out that a writer has really accentuated a point, try **emphasize**. If you are dubious about what the author is writing and plan to disagree, try **allege** or **claim**.

Different verbs are warranted in different contexts, so have as many at your fingertips as possible.

4. What verb tense do attributions use?

- MLA style usually requires that you use the present tense (e.g., the speaker(s) **argues** or **argues**) for sources cited.
- APA style usually requires that you use the past tense (e.g., the speaker(s) **argued**) or present perfect tense (e.g., the speaker(s) **has** or **have argued**) for sources cited.

Remember: being consistent with verb tense is really important.