

9 3/4 WAYS NOT TO SAY "SAYS"

UNC ASHEVILLE WRITING CENTER
VERBS OF ATTRIBUTION

EXAMPLE 1:

Hermione **counters** that Ron has the emotional range of a teaspoon.

Hermione **considers** that Ron has the emotional range of a teaspoon.



When Hermione **counters**, her idea is in opposition to Ron's suggestions.

When Hermione **considers**, she is willing to accept the statement about Ron.

VERBS

ACCEPTS	ADDS
ACCOUNTS FOR	ADMITS
ACKNOWLEDGE	ADVISES
ADDRESSES	AFFIRM

EXAMPLE 2:

Dumbledore **agrees**, "Fizzing Whizbees are the best candy."

Dumbledore **believes** Fizzing Whizbees are the best candy.



When Dumbledore **agrees**, his idea is in accordance with the unknown third party.

When Dumbledore **believes**, he holds an opinion of his own.

EXAMPLE 3:

Professor Lupin **postulates**, "Chocolate helps after a dementor attack."

Professor Lupin **proposes**, "Chocolate helps after a dementor attack."



When Lupin **postulates**, he suggests how to help after a dementor attack.

When Lupin **proposes**, he puts forward an idea that could help after a dementor attack.

VERBS:

ALLEGES	ALLOWS	ALLUDES	ANALYZES	ANSWERS
CHALLENGES	DECLARES	FINDS	OBSERVES	REVEALS
CITES	DEFINES	HINTS	OPPOSES	SEES
CHARGES	DEFENDS	GRANTS	OFFERS	SCRUTINIZES
CLAIMS	DENIES	HYPOTHESIZES	POINTS OUT	SHOWS
COMMANDS	DENOTES	ILLUSTRATES	POSTULATES	SPECULATES
COMMENTS	DESCRIBES	IMPLIES	PROMOTES	STATES
COMPARES	DICTATES	IMPLORES	PRONOUNCES	STRESSES
COMPLAINS	DISAGREES	INDICATES	PROPOUNDS	SUGGEST
CONCEDES	DISCUSSES	INSINUATES	PROSELYTIZE	SUPPORTS
CONCLUDES	DISPUTES	INSISTS	QUESTIONS	SUPPOSES
CONCURS	ECHOES	INTERPRETS	REALIZES	SURMISES
CONFESSES	EMPHASIZES	INTRODUCES	REASONS	THEORIZES
CONFIRMS	ENDORSES	LABELS	REFUTES	THINKS
CONSIDERS	ENTREATS	LISTS	REJECTS	TOUTS
CONTENDS	EXCLAIMS	MAINTAINS	RELATES	UNDERSCORES
CONTESTS	EXHORTS	MENTIONS	REMARKS	USES
COUNTERS	EXPLAINS	MUMBLES	REPLIES	UTILIZES
CRITICIZES	EXPLICATE	NARRATES	REPORTS	VERIFIES
DEALS WITH	EXPRESSES	NOTES	RESPONDS	WONDERS
DECIDES	EXTRAPOLATES	OBJECTS	RETORTS	WRITES