Signal Verbs

Signal verbs are those verbs that introduce a quotation or an idea directly related to a source. See underlined below.

- The author concludes, “Half of all matter is dark matter.”
- Jones wonders why few people consider the causes of poverty.

Try to avoid using the same verbs over and over. *States* and says are 2 signal verbs that are overuse. Below is a list of possible verbs. You might also check the thesaurus for ideas.

- acknowledges
- allows
- assumes
- claims
- concurs
- declares
- discusses
- emphasizes
- implies
- objects
- opposes
- proposes
- replies
- reveals
- suggests
- wants to
- writes
- advises
- answers
- believes
- concludes
- confirms
- describes
- disputes
- expresses
- interprets
- observes
- points to
- recognizes
- reports
- says
- supports
- wishes
- agrees
- asserts
- charges
- considers
- criticizes
- disagrees
- explains
- holds
- lists
- offers
- presents
- regards
- responds
- states
- thinks
- wonders

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