REPORTING VERBS

Reporting verbs, also known as referring verbs, are verbs which are used when you report or refer to another writer's work. They connect in-text citations to the information cited.

STRENGTH OF REPORTING VERBS

Reporting verbs vary in strength, from *weak* to *neutral* to *strong*. For example:

- Smith (2016) **assumes** that reporting verbs have different strengths. [*assume* = weak]
- Smith (2016) **insists** that reporting verbs have different strengths. [*insist* = strong]

TENSE OF REPORTING VERBS

Reporting verbs can use either *past* or *present* tense. Present tense is more common as it makes the information seem more current. Past tense is suitable for more dated research.

2018

GRAMMAR OF REPORTING VERBS

Although most verbs are followed by *that* clauses, it is important to check usage. E.g.

- Smith (2016) **agrees** with Sharpling (2012) that reporting verbs have subtle differences in meaning. [*agree with sb*]
- Smith (2016) **challenges** writers to use reporting verbs accurately. [*challenge sb to do sth*]

+ that?

EXAMPLES OF REPORTING VERBS

General meaning: add
- **develop** [weak]
- **contribute** + *to sth* [strong]

General meaning: agree
- **admit** + *that* [weak]
- **concede** + *that* [weak]
- **agree** + *with sb that* [strong]
- **concur** + *with sb that* [strong]

General meaning: conclude
- **discover** + *that* [neutral]
- **find** + *that* [neutral]
- **conclude** + *that* [strong]

General meaning: disagree
- **question** + *sth* [weak]
- **doubt** + *sth* [neutral]
- **disapprove** + *of sth* [strong]
- **cast doubt on** + *sth* [strong]
- **dismiss** + *sth* [strong]
- **object to** + *sth* [strong]
- **reject** + *sth* [strong]
- **disagree** + *with sb* [strong]

General meaning: emphasise
- **highlight** + *sth* [strong]
- **emphasise** + *that* [strong]

General meaning: examine
- **inquire** [weak]
- **analyse** + *sth* [neutral]
- **examine** + *sth* [neutral]
- **compare** + *sth to sth* [neutral]
- **contrast** + *sth with sth* [neutral]
- **scrutinise** + *sth* [strong]

General meaning: explain
- **define** + *sth as sth* [neutral]
- **explain** + *that* [neutral]

General meaning: guess
- **speculate** + *that* [weak]

General meaning: include
- **take into consideration** [weak]

General meaning: persuade
- **persuade** + *that* [strong]
- **convince** [strong]

General meaning: see
- **view** + *sth as sth* [weak]
- **observe** + *that* [neutral]

General meaning: show
- **calculate** + *that* [weak]
- **establish** + *that* [neutral]
- **prove** + *that* [strong]
- **determine** [strong]

General meaning: state
- **comment** + *that* [weak]
- **describe** + *sth* [neutral]
- **report** + *that* [neutral]
- **state** + *that* [neutral]
- **assert** + *that* [strong]

General meaning: suggest
- **imply** + *that* [weak}
- **suggest** + *that* [weak}
- **propose** + *that* [neutral}
- **theorise** + *that* [neutral}
- **warn** + *sb of sth/that* [strong]
- **advise** + *that* [strong}
- **recommend** + *that* [strong}
- **urge** + *that* [strong}

General meaning: think
- **consider** + *sth* [neutral]
- **reason** + *that* [strong]

EG