Workshop objectives

This workshop will assist you in becoming familiar with:

• The function and correct use of reporting verbs
• Demonstrating attitude toward/of an author
• Modifying reporting verbs
• Grammatically correct forms of reporting verb structures
Reporting verbs are used with:

- quotes
- paraphrases
- summaries
Choosing the ‘right’ reporting verb depends on:

• what the author is doing

• the author’s attitude to the information

• the extent to which you agree with the author

• the way the reporting verb fits together with other words in a sentence (ie grammar)
What the author is doing

ARGUE: verbs concerned with writing or saying
argue, suggest, propose, point out, explain, conclude, claim, state

THINK: verbs concerned with thinking, knowing, understanding
think, believe, assume, feel, hold, hope
What the author is doing

**SHOW**: verbs concerned with indicating a fact or situation
- show, demonstrate, reveal, indicate, confirm, imply

**FIND**: verbs concerned with the research process
- find, discover, observe, establish, identify
Author’s attitude

It is possible to indicate whether the author is positive or negative in their attitude to the content of the information.

**POSITIVE**
accept, advise, affirm, agree, applaud, assert, concur, insist, maintain, note, praise, point out, posit, recommend, remark, stress, subscribe to, suggest, support, think, urge

**NEGATIVE**
attack, challenge, disagree, dismiss, dispute, doubt, mistrust, oppose, question, reject, suspect, warn

or uncertain
Author’s attitude

- The author is very assertive/certain
  - argue, challenge, claim, insist, refute, reject
- The author is tentative
  - propose, speculate, suggest
- The author believes the information is very important
  - contend, emphasise, stress
- The author believes the information is of lesser importance
  - mention, note, say
- The author is offering advice to the reader
  - recommend, urge, caution, warn
Agreement with author

You can indicate, through a choice of reporting verbs, your own viewpoint:

• agreement with author
  
  *e.g. show, throw light on*

• disagreement with author
  
  *e.g. confuse, disregard*

• a neutral attitude towards the author
  
  *e.g. describe, explain, define*
You must choose your reporting verbs carefully. The meaning of a reporting verb can change according to the context and the language surrounding it.
In order to develop your own argument and emphasise your own voice, you can modify reporting verbs.

You can show strong agreement with the author’s line of argument.

Peres da Costa (2015) clearly demonstrates that....
Balik and Bayrak (2011) correctly conclude that...
Young and Chen (2014) perceptively identify....
Zvangoli (1999) persuasively argues that..

You can show your uncertainty about or disagreement with the author’s line of argument.

Craig and Blaster (2014) attempt to argue that...
Crawford (2015) incorrectly concludes that...
Although Webster (2011) might claim that...
ARGUE, THINK and SHOW verbs are mostly in the present tense.

ARGUE, FIND and SHOW verbs are occasionally in the present perfect tense.

FIND verbs (concerned with the research process) are mostly in the past tense.
Grammar

Verbs followed by a preposition

- defines x as y
- alerts x to y
- compares x to y
- objects to x
- subscribes to x
- challenges x to do y
- exhorts x to do y
- forbids x to do y
- warns x to do y
- apologises for x
- blames x for y
- criticises x for y
- accuses x of y
- warns x of y
- confuses x with y
- contrasts x with y
- disagrees with x
- concurs with x
Grammar

Verbs followed by a **noun** or **-ing** form

analyses, applauds, appraises, assesses, attacks, considers, contradicts, critiques, debates, describes, discards, disclaims, discounts, discusses, dismisses, disregards, evaluates, examines, explores, expresses, extols, forbids, highlights, identifies, ignores, illustrates, investigates, justifies, lists, opposes, outlines, praises, presents, questions, refutes, rejects, restates, scrutinises, studies, supports, underscores, uses, validates, verifies
Grammar

Verbs followed by ‘that’

accepts, acknowledges, adds, admits, advises, advocates, agrees, alerts, alleges, announces, argues, articulates, asserts, assures, believes, boasts, claims, clarifies, comments, complains, concedes, concludes, confirms, feels, finds, forgets, guarantees, guesses, hopes, hypothesises, imagines, implies, indicates, infers, informs, insists, justifies, knows, maintains, notes, observes, persuades, points out, posits, postulates, promises, proposes, proves, questions, realises, reasons, recognises, recommends, remarks, reminds, reports, reveals, shows, speculates, states, stresses, suggests, suspects, tells, theorises, thinks, understands, urges, warns
References

Centre for Learning and Professional Development 2010, *Reporting verbs*, University of Adelaide.

Craven, E. n.d., *Which reporting verb should I use?*, ELSSA Centre, University of Technology, Sydney.

Discover these!

- Online self-help learning resources
- Drop-in & 1:1 consultations
- Writing support sessions
- Conversations@UTS
- Intensive academic English programmes
- Daily workshops
- Volunteer programmes

www.helps.uts.edu.au