

When attributing ideas, quotes, or paraphrases to a source, you will always need to include an attributive tag, which signals to the reader the information you are sharing is not your own. This is easy enough, but what often happens with our attributive tags is a tendency toward repetition. Perhaps you are constantly writing the common attributive tag of “According to...” or “As the author argues...” If this is the case, have no fear. Below is a wonderful list of many verbs that are useful for attributive tags. Make sure you check the definition before using it in your paper because each verb has a different meaning.

acknowledge	contrasts	illustrates	remarks
adds	conveys	inquires	replies
admits	critiques	lists	reports
alerts	defines	makes clear	reviews
allows	delineates	makes the case	says
analyzes	demonstrates	measures	shows
announces	denies	notes	simplifies
argues	describes	observes	speaks
ascertains	determines	points out	stipulates
asks	discovers	posits	stresses
assesses	echoes	postulates	substantiates
asserts	emphasizes	presents	suggests
begins	envisions	proposes	summarizes
cites	evaluates	proves	surveys
claims	examines	qualifies	synthesizes
compares	explores	questions	traces
concludes	expounds on	rationalizes	views
concurs	figures	reduces	warns
condemns	finds	refers to	writes
considers	finishes	refutes	
contends	identifies	rejects	

This list was provided by the Reading, Writing, and Studying Strategies Center at the University of Massachusetts, Boston:

<http://www.academicssupport.umb.edu/assets/pdf/introducingquotesverbs.pdf>