

Rhetorical Verb Bank

Choose the verb that best matches how the author presents their argument:

Strong, Direct Claims:

- argues (forcefully makes case)
- asserts (states confidently)
- contends (argues against opposition)
- maintains (insists on position)
- claims (declares to be true)

Moderate/Exploratory Claims:

- suggests (implies without directly stating)
- proposes (offers for consideration) - posits (puts forward as hypothesis)
- implies (hints at meaning)

Demonstrative/Explanatory:

- demonstrates (proves through evidence)
- illustrates (shows through examples)
- reveals (uncovers hidden truth)
- explains (makes clear)
- establishes (proves and sets foundation)

Critical/Analytical:

- critiques (analyzes flaws)
- challenges (questions accepted views)
- questions (raises doubts about)
- examines (analyzes closely)