SALT

Powerful Verbs for Weaving Ideas in Essays

The following verbs are helpful as a means of showing how an example or quote in literature Supports an idea or interpretation.

Example + **Verb** + **Explanation or Significance**
(CD) **(CM)**

You may use the above in a sentence as a general formula that may need modified to fit each situation.

Example from The Pearl: The act of hurling the pearl into the sea [verb] suggests that the beauty of the (Concrete Detail)

soul cannot be bought. (Commentary)

Example from The Once and Future King: Arthur's hint of caution to Lancelot and Guenevere

regarding Mordred confirms that he had suspected their affair all along; he had pretended not to

know for their sake and for the sake of the kingdom.

Active Verbs

Note of Caution: Only use the verbs you're familiar with unless you take the time to examine the definition in the dictionary. **This is NOT a list of synonyms**. Each word has specific usage patterns that are unique to its meaning.

Literary Essay	Report or Persuasive Essay that refers to an expert's opinion or research studies	Report or Persuasive Essay that describes beginnings, causes, effects, etc.	Persuasive Essay that refers to the possibilities of what ideas can do, create, or assist with	Report or Persuasive Essay that involves laws or legal proposals
Alludes to	Analyzes	Advances	Accomplishes	Authorizes
Attests	Assumes	Affects	Achieves	Allows
Clarifies	Concludes	Compels	Aids	Permits
Confirms	Confirms	Discovers	Alleviates	Sanctions
Conveys	Considers	Empowers	Ameliorates	Licenses
Denotes	Construes	Forces	Assembles	Documents
Depicts	Deduces	Generates	Assists	Consents
Determines	Deliberates	Ignites	Attains	Forbids
Displays	Demonstrates	Impacts	Attempts	Prohibits
Emphasizes	Examines	Imposes	Augments	Disallows
Entails	Explores	Incites	Builds	Endorses
Establishes	Identifies	Includes	Constructs	Bans
Exemplifies	Imparts	Influences	Delivers	Secures
Explains	Indicates	Initiates	Develops	Guarantees
Exposes	Maintains	Initiates	Discourages	Bars
Expounds	Manifests	Commences	Emits	Outlaws
Highlights	Misconstrues	Instigates	Encourages	Inhibits
Hints	Observes	Introduces	Engenders	Hinders
Illustrates	Perceives	Involves	Enhances	Prevents
Implies	Pinpoints	Kindles	Enriches	Precludes
Connotes	Presumes	Launches	Establishes	Thwarts
Indicates	Questions	Leads to	Expands	Averts
Portrays	Reasons	Presents	Facilitates	Defends
Represents	Refers	Pressures	Grants	Protects
Reveals	Remarks	Promotes	Improves	Safeguards
Shows	Scrutinizes	Prompts	Increases	Guards
Signifies	Speculates	Provokes	Manufactures	Neglects
Substantiates	Substantiates	Results in	Offers	
Suggests	Supports	Sparks	Produces	
Typifies	Supposes	Stimulates	Progresses	
Underscores	Theorizes	Triggers	Provides	
	Upholds	Yields	Reaches	
	Validates		Supplies	
	Verifies		Transforms	

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