



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 suggests that the beauty of the
soul cannot be bought.
(Concrete Detail) (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 Attests Clarifies Confirms Conveys Denotes Depicts Determines Displays Emphasizes Entails Establishes Exemplifies Explains Exposes Expounds Highlights Hints Illustrates Implies Connotes Indicates Portrays Represents Reveals Shows Signifies Substantiates Suggests Typifies Underscores	Analyzes Assumes Concludes Confirms Considers Construes Deduces Deliberates Demonstrates Examines Explores Identifies Imparts Indicates Maintains Manifests Misconstrues Observes Perceives Pinpoints Presumes Questions Reasons Refers Remarks Scrutinizes Speculates Substantiates Supports Supposes Theorizes Upholds Validates Verifies	Advances Affects Compels Discovers Empowers Forces Generates Ignites Impacts Imposes Incites Includes Influences Initiates Initiates Commences Instigates Introduces Involves Kindles Launches Leads to Presents Pressures Promotes Prompts Provokes Results in Sparks Stimulates Triggers Yields	Accomplishes Achieves Aids Alleviates Ameliorates Assembles Assists Attains Attempts Augments Builds Constructs Delivers Develops Discourages Emits Encourages Engenders Enhances Enriches Establishes Expands Facilitates Grants Improves Increases Manufactures Offers Produces Progresses Provides Reaches Supplies Transforms	Authorizes Allows Permits Sanctions Licenses Documents Consents Forbids Prohibits Disallows Endorses Bans Secures Guarantees Bars Outlaws Inhibits Hinders Prevents Precludes Thwarts Averts Defends Protects Safeguards Guards Neglects