Annotation Verbs
Verbs to use in place of “said/says” when creating annotations

When using quotations or writing papers and bibliographies, many of us struggle to find other verbs for “says’. However, word choice and language variety are important factors to consider when writing. Below is a list of verbs that can be used for annotations, citations, or other places in writing where you find yourself searching for words. They are not all synonyms, and they all carry different connotations, but they do offer some variety for the words many of us use too often. For more information, try James L. Harner’s book On Compiling an Annotated Bibliography.

Accepts  Cites  Deplores  Follows  Postulates  Reveals
Adapts  Claims  Derives  Gives  Praises  Reviews
Addresses  Classifies  Describes  Glosses  Presents  Scrutinizes
Adds  Collects  Details  Groups  Presumes  Seeks
Adduces  Commemorates  Determines  Guides  Prints  Sees
Advise  Commends  Develops  Highlights  Probes  Shows
Advocates  Comments  Differentiates  Hints  Profiles  Sketches
Agrees  Compares  Disagrees  Hypothesizes  Proposes  Sorts
Aims  Compiles  Disassociates  Identifies  Protest Specifies
Allies  Complains  Discerns  Illuminates  Provides  Speculates
Allows  Concentrates on  Discounts  Illustrates  Puts forward  States
Analyzes  Concerns  Discusses  Includes  Questions  Stresses
Annotates  Concludes  Disputes  Indicates  Quotes  Studies
Announces  Concurs  Distinguishes  Inquires  Raises  Suggests
Applies  Confirms  Divides  Interprets  Reassesses  Summarizes
Argues  Conjectures  Documents  Interviews  Rebutts  Supplements
Ascertain  Considers  Doubts  Introduces  Recalls  Supports
Ascribes  Construes  Draws  Investigates  Recommends  Surmises
Asks  Contains  Elaborates  Investigates  Reconsiders  Surveys
Asserts  Contends  Elucidates  Laments  Reconsiders  Synthesizes
Associates  Contests  Emends  Lauds  Recount  Takes
Attempts  Continues  Emphasizes  Links  Redefines  Tests
Attributes  Constrasts  Encourages  Lists  Reexamines  Theorizes
Bases  Contributes  Envisions  Maintains  References  Thinks
Believes  Corrects  Equates  Mentions  Refers  Tracks
Believes  Covers  Establishes  Notes  Reflects  Tracks
Brings together  Criticizes  Estimates  Observes  Refutes  Translates
Calls  Critiques  Evaluates  Offers  Regards  Treats
Catalogs  Deals  Examines  Opposes  Rejects  Ties
Categorizes  Debates  Excerpts  Outlines  Relates  Underscores
Cautions  Declares  Explains  Parallels  Relegates  Understands
Centers  Deduces  Explicates  Perceives  Repeats  Uses
Challenges  Deems  Explores  Places  Relies  Utilizes
Characterizes  Defends  Expresses  Pleads  Reports  Views
Charts  Defines  Favors  Points out  Reprints  Writes
Chooses  Delineates  Finds  Portrays  Reproduces
Chronicles  Demonstrates  Focuses  Posits  Responds

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