

Analytical Verbs

A strong thesis statement requires a strong analytical verb. Your thesis statements should have one of the verbs from the list below, to show what exactly your essay aims to prove. A good analytical verb ensures that your essay does not merely indicate something that definitely happens, but rather, what you think the author intended.

Verbs that Move Toward Analysis

Advocates	Correlates to	Generates	Recalls
Alludes to	Creates	Guides	Reduces
Articulates	Critiques	Highlights	Relates
Asserts	Debates	Identifies	Reinforces
Balances	Defends	Illustrates	Represents
Builds	Depicts	Implements	Responds
Bolsters	Details	Implies	Reveals
Catalogs	Develops	Informs	Revitalizes
Categorizes	Differentiates	Integrates	Shows
Characterizes	Elevates	Moves	States
Clarifies	Elicits	Perpetuates	Strengthens
Classifies	Emphasizes	Persuades	Substantiates
Collates	Employs	Portrays	Suggests
Compares	Establishes	Presents	Supports
Concludes	Expands	Promotes	Underlines
Confirms	Expresses	Propels	Validates
Continues	Facilitates	Proposes	Verifies
Contrasts	Frames	Provoke	
Conveys	Gathers	Raises	

Phrases That Move Toward Analysis

By extension

Juxtaposed against

A vehicle for

Phrases that Show Comparison/Contrast

In contrast to...

Similarly,

While that..., this too

This _____ is analogous to