

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS: POWER VERBS

(Adapted from list compiled by M. Lee, Woodward Academy and V. Stevenson, Patrick Henry High, 2005)

Summarizing, rather than analyzing, is one of the chief pitfalls of AP rhetorical analysis. Bland verbs, such as *uses*, *says*, and *relates*, lead the writer into summary. Specific, powerful verbs and *verb phrases* make your writing more analytical and incisive when composing a rhetorical analysis (sophisticated, close read) of any text.

Suggests
Hints
Intimates
Implies
Questions
Casts
Sheds light
Clarifies
Masks
Notes
Observes
Asserts
Concedes
Qualifies
Affirms
Criticizes
Admonishes
Challenges
Characterizes
Condescends
Confronts
Contests
Deviates
Debates
Distinguishes
Envisions
Hints
Ponders
Postulates
Rationalizes
Satirizes
speculates
Excoriates
Berates
Belittles
Trivializes
Denigrates
Vilifies

Demonizes
Disparages
Ridicules
Mocks
Points out
Sympathizes
Vacillates
Verifies
Suppresses
Acknowledges
Emphasizes
Minimizes
Dismisses
Demonstrates
Underscores
Sugarcoats
Flatters
Lionizes
Praises
Exaggerates
Downplays
Minimizes
Exposes
Articulates
Explores
Lists
Supports
Establishes
Evokes
Induces
Quotes
Cites
Draws attention to the
irony
Calls attention to details
Accentuates
Accepts
Achieves

Adopts
Advocates
Affects
assumes

Verbs Related to Rhetorical Modes of Development

Compares
Contrasts
Classifies
Defines
Narrates
Describes
Argues
Persuades
Analyzes
Explains
Exemplifies
Illustrates
Summarizes

Structure Verbs

Opens
Begins
Adds
Connects
Juxtaposes
Draws a parallel between
Foreshadows
Turns to
Shifts to
Transitions to
Concludes
Finishes
Closes
ends

