RHETORICALLY ACCURATE/ACTIVE VERBS

What is a rhetorically accurate/active verb? **A rhetorically accurate verb is an action word that describes the kind of action taken.**

Here are some examples of rhetorically accurate verbs:
1. Ayn Rand **championed** radical capitalism.
2. Douglas Engelbart **invented** the computer mouse.
3. Galileo **discovered** sunspots.
4. Salk **cured** smallpox.
5. Jimi Hendrix **redefined** the electric guitar.

When you write, use the active voice. Demonstrate clearly who is doing what to whom. **Use rhetorically accurate verbs INSTEAD OF: "says," "states," "writes," or a passive verb.**

Active (Power!) Verbs in English Academic Discourse

Accentuates	Challenges	Declares	Elevates	Fantasizes	Innundates
Accepts	Championed	Deduces	Elicits	Focuses	Juxtaposes
Achieves	Changes	Defends	Elucidates	Forces	Justifies
Adds	Characterizes	Defines	Embodies	Foreshadows	Lampoons
Adopts	Chooses	Defies	Empathizes	Forewarns	Lists
Advocates	Chronicles	Delineates	Emphasizes	Fortifies	Maintains
Affects	Claims	Demonstrates	Empowers	Fosters	Magnifies
Affirms	Clarifies	Denigrates	Encounters	Functions	Manages
Alleges	Comments	Denotes	Enhances	Hints	Manipulates
Alleviates	Compares	Denounces	Enlightens	Holds	Masters
Allows	Completes	Depicts	Enriches	Honors	Meanders
Alludes	Concerns	Describes	Enumerates	Generalizes	Minimizes
Amplifies	Concludes	Details	Envisions	Guides	Moralizes
Analogizes	Condemns	Determines	Escalates	Heightens	Motivates
Analyzes	Condescends	Develops	Establishes	Highlights	Muses
Approaches	Conducts	Deviates	Evokes	Identifies	Notes
Argues	Conforms	Differentiates	Evaluates	Illuminates	Observes
Ascertains	Confronts	Differs	Excludes	Illustrates	Opines
Asserts	Connotes	Direct	Exhibits	Imagines	Opposes
Assesses	Considers	Disappoints	Expands	Impels	Organizes
Assails	Constrains	Discern	Experiences	Implements	Outlines
Assumes	Constructs	Discovers	Explains	Implies	Overstates
Attacks	Contends	Discusses	Explicates	Includes	Paints
Attempts	Contests	Dispels	Expresses	Indicates	Patronizes
Attests	Contradicts	Displays	Exemplifies	Infers	Performs
Attributes	Contributes	Disputes	Extends	Initiates	Permeates
Augments	Conveys	Disrupts	Extrapolates	Inspires	Permits
Avoids	Convinces	Dissuades		Intends	Personifies
Bases	Creates	Distinguishes		Intensifies	Persuades
Believes	Critiques	Distorts		Interprets	Pervades
Bolsters		Downplays		Interrupts	Ponders
Bombards		Dramatizes		Introduces	Portrays

Postulates Predicts Prepares Presents Presumes Produces Projects Promotes Proposes Provides Provokes Purports Qualifies Questions	Rationalizes Reasons Recalls Recapitulates Recites Recollects Records Recounts Reflects Refers Refutes Regales Regards Regrets Relates Reinforces Rejects Remarks Represents Repudiates Reveals Reverts Ridicules Satirizes Sees Selects Serves Solidifies Specifies Speculates States Strives	Suggests Summarizes Supplies Supports Suppresses Sustains Symbolizes Sympathizes Traces Transcends Transforms Understands Understates Unpacks Uses Vacillates Values Verifies Views Wants Wishes

KILLER WORDS

Words to **AVOID** in academic writing. This is a starter list. It will grow!

A lot	Great
Very	Definitely
Many	Extremely
Things	Nice
Lots	Wonderful
Stuff	
Ways	
Really	
Absolutely	
Amazing	
Awesome	
Interesting	
Bad	