

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Verbs to Use in Analyzing Aim/Purpose/Intention

In writing about an author's purpose or intent or in analyzing any aspect of an author's work, avoid using such weak verbs as "said," "show," "state," and "demonstrate." Practice using a variety of precise verbs that give a clearer picture of your understanding of an author's purpose, style, and message.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| accuse | correlate | forbid | reinforce |
| add | corroborate | foreshadow | reiterate |
| address | create | formulate | render |
| admonish | criticize | guide | reveal |
| advise | defend | harass | reward |
| affirm | define | hint | scare |
| allude | defy | honor | shock |
| amplify | demand | identify | simplify |
| apologize | demonize | illustrate | speculate |
| ascertain | deny | imply | strengthen |
| assess | deplore | incite | suggest |
| assuage | deprecate | indicate | support |
| attack | deride | infer | taunt |
| balance | deter | inquire | teach |
| beg | detract | insult | testify |
| belittle | diminish | interpret | urge |
| bemoan | disagree | invalidate | validate |
| beseech | discourage | justify | verify |
| blame | discover | juxtapose | vouch |
| boast | dismiss | lament | warn |
| cause | display | laud | weaken |
| certify | effect | lead | yield |
| characterize | emphasize | legitimize | |
| clarify | enable | link | |
| compare | encourage | magnify | |
| complain | enforce | maximize | |
| complement | enhance | minimize | |
| complicate | entail | mislead | |
| comprehend | entertain | notify | |
| concede | envelop | pacify | |
| condemn | epitomize | paint | |
| confide | establish | plead | |
| confuse | evaluate | portend | |
| congratulate | evoke | promote | |
| connect | evolve | propose | |
| consider | excite | protest | |
| continue | excuse | question | |
| contradict | exemplify | reaffirm | |
| contrast | flatter | refer | |
| convince | flaunt | reflect | |