Power Verbs

Summarizing, rather than analyzing, is one of the chief pitfalls of AP essay writing. Bland verbs, such as *says* and *relates,* tend to lead the writer into summary. Powerful verbs and verb phrases, used correctly, will make your writing more analytical and incisive.

Suggests

Hints

Intimates

Implies

Questions

Casts

Sheds light

Clarifies

Masks

Notes

Observes

Asters

Concedes

Qualifies

Affirms

Criticizes

Admonishes

Challenges

Debates

Excoriates

Berates

Belittles

Trivializes

Denigrates

Vilifies

Demonizes

Disparages

Ridicules

Mocks

Points out

Acknowledges

Emphasizes

Minimizes

Declares

Denounces

Alleviates

Forces

Proposes

Transforms

Solidifies

Reinforces

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

**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

Uses an analogy

Turns to

Shifts to

Transitions to

Concludes

Finishes

Closes

ends