Words to Introduce Quotations

You may use direct quotations objectively to introduce an author or you can spice it up and introduce the quotation with a more explanatory word meant to describe your opinions about the author in question. A more expressive word, used correctly, can add emphasis and meaning to a paper. Remember, the word chosen will depend upon how you, the writer, want to introduce each specific quotation. In short, these words are not interchangeable. They do not all mean the same thing; hence, it is best to make use of a dictionary before using them. The list of words compiled is divided into four categories.

**Straightforward, uncomplicated words:**

- Argues
- Asks
- Cites
- Finds
- Names
- Notes
- Says
- Shows
- States
- Suggests
- Views
- Writes

**Expressive words:**

- Accepts
- Acknowledges
- Addresses
- Adds
- Admits
- Advances
- Affirms
- Agrees
- Alleges
- Advances
- Articulates
- Asserts
- Articulates
- Attests
- Answers
- Articulates
- Asserts
- Assesses

**Words introducing counter arguments:**

- Chastises
- Contrasts
- Counters
- Criticizes
- Denies
- Denounces
- Negates
- Questions
- Renounces
- Retaliates
- Retorts
- Warns

- Defines
- Demonstrates
- Describes
- Determines
- Discovers
- Evaluates
- Examines
- Explains
- Explores
- Hypothesizes
- Identifies
- Illustrates
- Implies
- Inquires
- Inspects
- Interprets
- Investigates
- Learns
- Lists
- Makes the case
- Mentions
- Observes
- Offers
- Points out
- Ponders
- Presents
- Prompts
- Promotes
- Proposes
- Proves
- Proclaims
- Pronounces
- Recognizes
We empower writers

Mega expressive words:

Acquiesces
Appraises
Ascertains
Bemoans
Braggs
Castigates
Concedes
Conceives
Critiques
Deliberates
Delineates
Discloses
Detracts from
Emphasizes
Encapsulates
Encourages
Entangles
Envisions
Estimates
Exhibits
Expounds on
Expresses
Fabricates
Declares
Foreshadows
Foretells
Fosters
Furnishes
Generates
Grants
Grapples
Gushes
Hammers
Hopes
Immortalizes
Impoverishes
Impugns
Jests
Labors
Lambastes
Lavishes
Longs
Magnifies
Maintains
Malings
Manipulates
Masks
Measures
Minimizes
Misappropriates
Moralizes
Muses
Nurtures
Obscures
Overlooks
Overreacts
Perceives
Persuades
Perverts
Posit
Postulates
Postures
Preempts
Preaches
Publicize
Rambles
Rationalizes

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