

What is a **rhetorically accurate 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. Mohammad *founded* Islam
5. Salk *cured* smallpox
6. Jimi Hendrix *redefined* the electric guitar

Above sentences borrowed from:

[http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl201/modules/bio-precis/bioprecis how do I write one.html](http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl201/modules/bio-precis/bioprecis%20how%20do%20I%20write%20one.html)

To revitalize your prose, use the active voice (demonstrate clearly who is doing what to whom). Here is an initial set of words to use instead of "says," "states," "writes," or a passive verb:

observes	affirms	foreshadows
notes	asserts	predicts
remarks	argues	suggests
adds	opines	hints
declares	repudiates	sustains
claims	refutes	manipulates
comments	dispels	unpacks
thinks	reverts	enhances
portrays	embodies	discerns
reveals	inspires	masters
exemplifies	regales	meanders
explains	empowers	transforms
demonstrates	constrains	solidifies
elucidates	constructs	purports
clarifies	creates	explicates
paints	transcends	highlights
alleges	pervades	

Verbs in English Academic Discourse

accentuates	defends	extrapolates	notes	ridicules
accepts	defines		observes	satirizes
achieves	defies	fantasizes	opposes	seems
adopts	demonstrates	focuses	organizes	sees
advocates	denigrates	forces	overstates	selects
affects	depicts	foreshadows	outlines	serves
alleviates	describes	functions		specifies
allows	details		patronizes	speculates
alludes	determines	generalizes	performs	states
analyzes	develops	guides	permits	strives
approaches	deviates		personifies	suggests
argues	differentiates	heightens	persuades	summarizes
ascertains	differs	highlights	ponders	supplies
asserts	directs	hints	portrays	supports
assesses	disappoints	holds	postulates	suppresses
assumes	discovers	honors	prepares	symbolizes
attacks	discusses		presents	sympathizes
attempts	displays	identifies	presumes	
attributes	disputes	illustrates	produces	traces
avoids	disrupts	imagines	projects	
	distinguishes	impels	promotes	understands
bases	disputes	implies	proposes	understates
believes	disrupts	includes	provides	uses
	distinguishes	indicates		
challenges	distorts	infers	qualifies	vacillates
changes	downplays	inspires	questions	values
characterizes	dramatizes	intends		verifies
chooses		interprets	rationalizes	views
chronicles	elevates	interrupts	reasons	
claims	elicits	inundates	recalls	wants
comments	empathizes		recites	wishes
compares	encounters	justifies	recollects	
completes	enriches		records	
concerns	enumerates	lampoons	recounts	
concludes	envisions	lists	reflects	
condescends	evokes		refers	
conducts	excludes	maintains	regards	
conforms	expands	makes	regrets	
confronts	experiences	manages	rejects	
considers	explains	manipulates	represents	
contends	expresses	minimizes	results	
contests	extends	moralizes	reveals	
		muses		