



8 Common Verbs for Charting

When learning how to analyze the choices writers or speakers make in their texts, we should consider using an abbreviated list of verbs, reducing the amount of words we have to think about while charting. Use LiteracyTA's "8 Common Verbs" to accurately describe what a writer or speaker is "doing" in a text.

8 Common Verbs

- **analyzes:** the writer or speaker carefully examines an idea, event, system, process, or data and explains what it means.
- **argues:** the writer or speaker states a position or makes an assertion that requires support and explanation.
- **cites:** the writer or speaker references someone else's work, ideas, or gives credit to a person or organization for saying or doing something.
- **defines:** the writer or speaker provides the meaning of a term, concept, or idea.
- **describes:** the writer or speaker provides concrete or sensory details so that the audience can understand or visualize what he/she is saying.
- **explains:** the writer or speaker makes information clear and easy to understand; he/she says what something looks like, how something works, or says how something happened.
- **reports:** the writer or speaker summarizes a process, an event, a situation, research study, or story.
- **supports:** the writer or speaker provides evidence or backing that can be used to prove a point or advance a position.