

PHRASING TIPS

"A sentence sings with the right words." - Anonymous

REFERRING TO AN AUTHOR:

- Essays:** Refer to the author by last name or use **writer**, **author**, or **essayist**. The term "narrator" is not used in discussing an essay since the author is the one speaking.
- Short Stories:** Refer to the author by last name, or use **writer** or **author**. In fiction, the actual story-telling voice is not the author's. Refer instead to the **narrator** or the **narrative voice** in the story.

DECIDING YOUR THESIS: choose phrasing to express your point effectively

- Compare it:** The author's main idea is similar to/contradicts ____'s ideas because...
- Relate it:** The author's main idea relates to the issue of...
The author's main idea helps me understand my own experience because...
- Analyze it:** The author makes effective use of literary devices, including ____, ____, and ____ to express...
The author uses details of the story, including ____, ____, and ____ to convey...
- Support it:** The author's main idea is valid because... The author is correct in suggesting that...
- Question it:** The author's main idea is questionable because... I disagree with the author because...
- Evaluate it:** The author's main idea is important because... The author shows meaningful insight into...
- Criticize it:** The author's main idea is illogical because... The author seems only partly correct, since...
- Categorize it:** The author's main idea represents a ____ ...

REFERRING TO THE AUTHOR'S IDEAS: use precise and relevant verbs

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|---|--|
| If the author builds an argument: | X argues that... |
| If the author persistently states an idea: | X maintains that... |
| If the author strongly states an idea: | X asserts that... |
| If you want to imply doubt on your part: | X claims that... |
| If the author indirectly conveys an idea: | X implies that... X suggests that... |

INTERPRETING & ANALYZING DETAILS: use different types of phrases

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| This metaphor shows... | This example proves... |
| This story reveals... | This story illustrates... |
| This essay demonstrates... | The author implies... |
| This passage suggests... | This argument indicates... |
| This highlights... | The repetition emphasizes... |
| This character represents... | The author's ____ shows that... |

TRANSITIONAL WORDS: use these to make smooth and logical transitions

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|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Similarly, | However, | Nevertheless, |
| In addition, | As a result, | To sum up, |
| Moreover, | Consequently, | For example, |
| On the other hand, | In brief, | Finally, |
| In contrast, | Therefore, | In conclusion, |