

Rhetorically Accurate Verbs - Master List with Categories

- Rhetorically accurate verbs (RAVs) are **verbs that describe moves** made by a writer/speaker. They allow you to write about what a writer/speaker is “doing” in the most precise way possible.

Category	Verb	Meaning
RAVs to use to discuss a speaker bringing something up	pose	to set forth or offer for attention or consideration
	introduce	To make (something) known to the reader
RAVs to use when a speaker is saying something indirectly	suggest	To convey an idea indirectly
	imply	To express an idea indirectly
	indicate	To point toward something without saying it directly
	insinuate	To express an idea indirectly
RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker’s choice to emphasize or call attention to something	emphasize	to give special importance or attention to something in speaking or writing
	highlight	to center attention on something
	feature	to give special prominence to something
	focus on	to pay particular attention to something
	point out	to direct attention toward something (in order to create awareness of a fact or circumstance)
	call attention to	to direct attention toward something
	spotlight	To direct attention toward something
	stress	To emphasize something
	underscore	To emphasize something
RAVs to use when the	contextualize	To consider something together with the situation, events, or information related to

speaker is providing context for their claim		it, rather than alone
	provide background	To give background information on a topic
RAVs to use when you want to discuss the speaker making a claim or assertion	claim	To state that something is true
	assert	To say that something is certainly true
	contend	To state that something is true or a fact
RAVs to use when the speaker is supporting or proving the validity of a claim	support	to defend the truth or validity of something
	demonstrate	to clearly show the existence or truth of something by providing evidence
	substantiate	To provide evidence to support the truth of something
	corroborate	To support a claim with evidence
	reinforce	To make something stronger
	confirm	To prove that an opinion is true
RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker giving an example or examples* of something	provide	to supply or make (an example, anecdote, etc) available to the reader
	list	to make a list of a series of things
	enumerate	to specify things one after another; to list things
	illustrate	to make something clear by providing examples
	present	To show something to the reader
	offer	To present something to the reader
RAVs to use to discuss a speaker's choice to (further) explain or clarify something	explain	to make something clear or easy to understand by describing or giving information about it
	convey	make something known or understandable to someone; to communicate an idea
	elucidate	To make something more clear
	demonstrate	To show or make something clear

	elaborate	to add more information, detail, or explanation about something
	develop	To elaborate and advance your explanation about something
	expand upon	To give more details about something
<p>RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker conceding a point (you can also use these to discuss a speaker bringing something up in general)</p> <p>RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker refuting or responding to a point:</p>	raise	To bring [an opposing point] to the reader's attention
	acknowledge	accept or admit the existence or truth of something
	address	to give attention to or deal with something
	admit	to reluctantly confess that something is true
	concede	to acknowledge grudgingly or hesitantly
	entertain	to give attention or consideration to something
	respond	to say something in reply to something else (an opposing argument)
	refute	To respond to and overcome an opposing point
<p>RAVs to use to discuss when a speaker is saying something more than once OR telling the audience something they already know</p>	counter	to respond in opposition to something
	reiterate	To say something again
	repeat	To say something again
<p>RAVs to use to discuss a speaker's choice to include something</p>	remind	To make someone think of something they (might) have forgotten
	add	to put something in
<p>RAVs to use when you want to discuss the speaker telling a story</p>	include	to contain something as a part
	narrate	To tell a story
	recount	To describe how something happened or tell a story
	give an account of	To tell a narrative about someone or something to someone

RAVs to use to when you want to discuss a speaker considering an idea (but <u>not</u> necessarily making definitive claims about that idea)	examine	to consider a person or thing carefully and in detail in order to discover something about them
	explore	to think or talk about something in order to find out more about it
	consider	to spend time thinking [talking] about a possibility or making a decision
	analyze	to study or examine something in detail, in order to discover more about it
RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker's choice to deemphasize or exclude something	minimize	to treat or describe something as less important than it is
	tone down	to reduce the importance or impact of something; to make something less severe, offensive, or shocking
	discount	to leave something out or disregard something
	ignore	to fail to consider or notice something; to disregard something intentionally
	disregard	To ignore something
RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker's choice to say something positive about something	celebrate	to express admiration and approval for something or someone
	compliment	to expresses approval, admiration, or respect for something or someone
	praise	to express admiration or approval of the achievements or characteristics of a person or thing
RAVs to use when you want to discuss a speaker's choice to say something negative about something	critique	to give an opinion or judgment about something (especially a negative opinion)
	disparage	to criticize someone or something in a way that shows you do not respect or value it
	criticize	to express disapproval of someone or something
RAVs to use when a speaker is comparing or contrasting two or more things	equate	to consider one thing to be the same as or equal to another thing
	compare	to judge, suggest, or consider that something is similar or of equal quality to something else / to examine or look at the differences between two things
	distinguish between	to point out the difference between two things
	contrasts	to compare two people or things in order to show the differences between them

RAVs to use when you want to discuss the speaker characterizing or describing something/someone in a certain way	characterize	to describe something by stating its main qualities
	describe	to say or write what someone or something is like
	depict	to represent or show something in a picture or story
	portray	to represent or describe someone or something in a painting, film, book, or other artistic work