



## Author Tags

Any form of writing that requires summary (reading-response essays, research papers, summaries) will benefit from the use of author tags.

Jones *stresses* the importance of reading to children.

Adams *rejects* Freud's theories.

Steiner *advocates* a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Using author tags will ensure we are not only summarizing the information the author is providing (the material) but that we are also analyzing the author's treatment of that material (the organization, the focus, the point of view, the attitude, the assumptions, and the logic). When writing a summary of an essay about fossil fuels, the summarizer is tempted to write solely about fossil fuels, the *material* of the essay. This approach denies the existence of the author's subjectivity, her unique *treatment* of the material. The way someone writes about their material colors the reader's perception of the material. The summarizer's job is to make readers aware of the writer's attitude toward her subject. Using author tags helps us grasp an author's purpose in writing. They do this through the emphasis placed on the verbs—*stresses*, *rejects*, *advocates*. Each verb carries with it a very specific meaning. When forced to choose a verb that will adequately reflect what an author is doing in an article, we become acutely aware of the logic behind the article or essay we are summarizing.

### Good verbs for author tags:

Admonishes	Deceives	Exaggerates	Philosophizes
Advocates	Decries	Exhausts	Postulates
Affirms	Delivers	Exonerates	Prophesies
Analyzes	Demystifies	Explores	Refers
Ascertain	Denies	Expounds upon	Refutes
Asserts	Elevates	Generalizes	Suggests
Concedes	Emphasizes	Hypothesizes	
Concurs	Entices	Ignores	
Condone	Evades	Observes	

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