Quote Integration

In order to blend outside sources smoothly and naturally into your own writing, it is important to vary the words you use when introducing quotations. Try the following verbs in place of the old and overused standby “states” next time you conduct intertextual analysis:

**To show continuation of thought (especially if one quotation follows another):**
- maintains
- continues
- concurs
- underscores
- insists
- adds
- explores
- declares

**To indicate a point made forcefully:**
- asserts
- argues
- stresses
- reiterates
- emphasizes
- insists
- engages
- underscores

**To indicate the author’s agreement with material:**
- agrees
- concurs
- affirms
- supports
- upholds

**To communicate a subtle argument or implied idea:**
- believes
- implies
- observes
- assumes
- examines

**To indicate your own feelings about a particular source or quotation:**

*Place an adverb before the verb.*
- seemingly indicates
- theoretically justifies
- falsely condemns
- incorrectly assumes
- accurately presumes
- poorly summarizes
- wrongly accuses
- correctly interprets
- presumably concurs

**Terms of neutrality:**
- states
- notes
- says
- writes
- comments
- observes
- presents
- remarks
- describes
- mentions
- points to
- indicates
To indicate the idea as a possibility (and not a hardened fact):

finds
proposes
suggests
observes
speculates

To indicate closure:

summarizes
concludes
closes
finishes
terminates

To put the author in conversation with another source:

remarks
replies
responds
restates
repeats
answers

To indicate the author's disagreement with material:

counters
denies
disagrees
contests
condemns
accuses
charges
assaults

Other words to think about:

overlooks
persuades
justifies
muses
theorizes
categorizes
interprets