

Writing Instructions Vocabulary

Updated 2015-16

	Definition of the verb when used to give writing instructions
Argue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give reasons and cite evidence in support of an idea.
Categorize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place in particular groups, usually using subject-specific terms.
Cite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quote an author or written piece of work as evidence for an argument or statement.
Compare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe analogies (comparisons) between two things for the purposes of explanation or clarification.
Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe comparisons between two things that are noticeably different from each other.
Criticize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express a sophisticated opinion of a piece of work.
Defend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attempt to justify an idea by writing in favour of it.
Define	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give the exact meaning of a word, generally in one sentence (statement).
Describe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give an account in words of something or someone and include all the relevant characteristics, qualities, or events.
Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write about something in detail, including different ideas and opinions.
Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess an idea and express an opinion on its value.
Examine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate and describe thoroughly someone or something.
Explain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe an idea in a greater-than-average level of detail.
Illustrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain something by using examples and possibly including visual images, such as charts, tables, or pictures.
Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A detailed description, diagram, drawing, or proposal for doing something.
Propose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Put forward an idea or plan for consideration and discussion by others.
Recall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember and describe to others a fact, event, or situation.
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write an account, often in the form of an official document, of something that you have observed, heard, done, or investigated.
Tell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narrate a story, facts, or news.
Analyze	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine methodically and report in great detail the components of something for the purpose of explanation and interpretation.

