

Verbs to Make an Essay “Spicy”

accentuates	defends	extrapolates	notes	ridicules
accepts	defines			
achieves	defies	fantasizes	observes	satirizes
adopts	demonstrates	focuses	opposes	seems
advocates	denigrates	forces	organizes	sees
affects	depicts	foreshadows	overstates	selects
alleviates	describes	functions	outlines	serves
allows	details			specifies
alludes	determines	generalizes	patronizes	speculates
analyzes	develops	guides	performs	states
approaches	deviates		permits	strives
argues	differentiates	heightens	personifies	suggests
ascertains	differs	highlights hints	persuades	summarizes
asserts	directs	holds	ponders	supplies
assesses	disappoints	honors	portrays	supports
assumes	discovers		postulates	suppresses
attacks	discusses	identifies	prepares	symbolizes
attempts	displays	illustrates	presents	sympathizes
attributes	disputes	imagines	presumes	
avoids	disrupts	impels	produces	traces
	distinguishes	implies	projects	
bases	disputes	includes	promotes	understands
believes	disrupts	indicates	proposes	understates
	distinguishes	infers	provides	uses
challenges	distorts	inspires		
changes	downplays	intends	qualifies	vacillates
characterizes	dramatizes	interprets	questions	values
chooses		interrupts		verifies
chronicles	elevates	inundates	rationalizes	views
claims	elicits		reasons	
comments	empathizes	justifies	recalls	wants
compares	encounters		recites	wishes
completes	enriches	lampoons	recollects	
concerns	enumerates	lists	records	
concludes	envisions		recounts	
condescends	evokes	maintains	reflects	
conducts	excludes	makes	refers	
conforms	expands	manages	regards	
confronts	experiences	manipulates	regrets	
considers	explains	minimizes	rejects	
contends	expresses	moralizes	represents	
contests	extends	muses	results	
			reveals	

(list courtesy of Sara Hayes)