

Larry Bell's 12 Power Verbs

Power Verb	Student Friendly Phrases
trace	outline; list in steps; go over; follow; give me the sequence
analyze	break apart; study the pieces; look at closer; examine
infer	make a good guess; read between the lines; what's the hidden meaning; what do you get from it; what are they really saying
evaluate	judge; tell in your own words; critique; list pros and cons
formulate	put together; create; design; build; come up with
describe	paint a picture with words; tell all about it; tell it like it is; use details
support	give the facts; back up with details; provide proof
explain	put it in your own words; tell me more (5 w's and how)
summarize	sum it up; give the short version; tell the highlights "Short and sweet"
compare	tell ALL the ways they're alike/same
contrast	tell ALL the ways they're different
predict	think and make a guess; tell what will happen next; hypothesize; use your crystal ball