

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE OF RESEARCH—ASSIGNMENTS

Don't let the academic language of research intimidate you. Here are some commonly used words in research assignments that basically mean the same thing:

explore X

critique X

discuss X

investigate X

analyze X

compare X with Y

explain X

discuss X in light of Y

But these phrases describe only the first step in the research process. An assignment to *discuss X* really means something more like this:

Find an issue in X that raises a question about a specific aspect of X, whose answer will help us understand some larger theme, feature, or quality of X.