

Data Commentary Vocabulary Cheat Sheet

Suggested Vocabulary:

- Increase/ Decrease
- Apex/ Peak
- Lowest point/ Nadir
- Plummet
- Stagnate
- Rise/ Fall
- Gap
- Trend
- Flatline
- Simultaneous
- Abate
- Aberrant

Comparatives & Superlatives:

- More than
- Less than
- Add -er endings
- Larger/smaller than
- Stronger/weaker than
- Better/worse
- The most
- The least
- Add -est endings
- The largest/the smallest
- The strongest/the weakest
- The best/the worst

Hedging Language

Introductory verbs	<i>seem, tend, look like, appear to be, think, believe, doubt, be sure, indicate, suggest</i>
Certain lexical verbs	<i>believe, assume, suggest</i>
Certain modal verbs	<i>will, must, would, may, might, could</i>
Adverbs of frequency	<i>often, sometimes, usually</i>
Modal adverbs	<i>certainly, definitely, clearly, probably, possibly, perhaps</i>
Modal nouns	<i>Assumption, possibility, probability</i>
That clauses	<i>It could be the case that..., It might be suggested that..., There is hope that...</i>
To-clause + adjective	<i>It may be possible to obtain..., It is important to develop..., It is useful to study...</i>

Phrases for Establishing Why Your Claims Matter

- Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.
- These findings have important consequences for the broader domain of _____.
- My discussion of X is in fact addressing the larger matter of _____.
- This discovery will have significant applications in _____ as well as in _____.

References

- Graff, G. & Birkenstein, C. (2006). *They say I say* (4th ed). W.W. Norton & Company.
- Sowton, C. (2012). *50 Steps to improving your academic writing*. Garnet Publishing Ltd.
- Swales, J. & Feak, C. (2004). *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and*