ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reporting Verbs for Academic Writing Quiz: Meaning and Strength

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https://englishtestsonline.com/reporting-verbs-for-academic-writing-quiz-meaning-and-strength/

1	**A**	2	**B**	3	**C**	4	**A**	5	**B**	6	**D**	7	**B**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**D**
11	**A**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**D**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. In her essay, Kim ___ that schools should start later, and gives three reasons.
✔ **A) argues**
Argue that, in academic writing, means giving reasons for a position. It is neutral and has nothing to do with anger.

2. The data only point one way; they don't prove anything. Which verb is the most careful?
✔ **B) The data suggest that …**
Suggest is a quiet, careful claim: the data point that way but do not prove it.

3. Some economists ___ that the crisis began years before the crash, but most of their colleagues disagree.
✔ **C) contend**
Contend is a formal verb for arguing a position that others disagree with.

4. Despite the tests, the company still ___ that its batteries never overheat.
✔ **A) maintains**
Maintain means keep saying the same thing although people doubt you.

5. The article ___ that the drug has no side effects, but it shows no evidence. Which verb tells the reader to be careful?
✔ **B) asserts**
Assert means stating something firmly as a fact, often without evidence, so the writer keeps a distance. Demonstrates would mean the writer accepts it.

6. Three former employees ___ that the manager took cash from the till. The police are investigating.
✔ **D) allege**
Allege means saying someone did something wrong without proof yet. The adverb is allegedly.

7. The authors briefly ___ that the survey took place in winter, which may explain the low numbers.
✔ **B) note**
Note that means mentioning a fact briefly, often a detail that matters later.

8. Over six months, the scientists ___ that the bees visited blue flowers first.
✔ **C) observed**
Observe that means making a remark based on what you have seen or studied.

9. In your essay, list every source you ___.
✔ **A) cite**
Cite means naming a study, book or example as support. Site (a place) and sight (seeing) sound the same but mean something else.

10. Which sentence shows that the writer accepts the finding?
✔ **D) The study demonstrates that …**
Demonstrate means showing clearly, with evidence. Assert, allege and claim keep a distance.

11. The report ___ the need for more school nurses: it puts the problem in front of every reader.
✔ **A) highlights**
Highlight makes a problem or fact stand out, so readers pay attention: highlight the need for.

12. In the limitations section, the authors ___ that their sample was small; later they ___ that a critic's point about age was fair.
✔ **B) acknowledge … concede**
Acknowledge means accepting a fact, often a limit of your own work. Concede means agreeing, unwillingly, that the other side has a point.

13. At first, a few scientists only ___ whether the results were reliable; now many openly ___ them and say they are wrong.
✔ **C) question … dispute**
Question means saying you have doubts, the mildest way to disagree. Dispute means saying it is wrong and being ready to argue about it.

14. When the idea first appeared, most experts ___ it as nonsense and did not even test it.
✔ **D) dismissed**
Dismiss something as nonsense: treat an idea as not worth thinking about.

15. The council considered the plan for a car park in the square, then ___ it.
✔ **C) rejected**
Reject means saying no to a theory, offer or plan after thinking about it. You dispute or refute a claim, not a plan.