

Index of Templates from *They Say, I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein.

Introducing What They Say

- A number of sociologists have recently suggested that X's work has several fundamental problems.
- It has become common today to dismiss X's contribution to the field of sociology.
- In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of Dr. X for _____.

Introducing Standard Views

- American today tend to believe that _____
- Conventional wisdom has it that _____
- Common sense seems to dictate that _____
- The standard way of thinking about topic X has it that _____
- It is often said that _____
- My whole life I have heard it said that _____
- You would think that _____
- Many people assumed that _____

Making What They Say Something You Say

- I've always believed that _____
- When I was a child, I used to think that _____
- Although I should know better by now, I cannot help thinking that _____
- At the same time that I believe _____, I also believe _____

Introducing Something Implied or Assumed

- Although none of them have ever said so directly, my teachers have often given me the impression that _____
- One implication of X's treatment of _____ is that _____
- Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that _____
- While they rarely admit as much, _____ often take for granted that _____

Introducing an Ongoing Debate

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been _____. On the other hand, _____ argues _____. On the other hand, _____ contends _____. Others even maintain _____. My own view is _____.
- When it comes to the topic of _____, most of us will readily agree that _____. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of _____. Whereas some are convinced that _____, others maintain that _____.
- In conclusion, then, defenders of _____ can't have it both ways. Their assertion that _____ is contradicted by their claim that _____.

Capturing Authorial Action

- X acknowledges that _____.
- X agrees that _____
- X argues that _____
- X believes that _____
- X denies / does not deny that _____
- X claims that _____
- X complains that _____
- X conceded that _____
- X demonstrates that _____
- X deplores the tendency to _____
- X celebrates the fact that _____
- X emphasizes that _____
- X insists that _____
- X observes that _____
- X questions whether _____
- X refutes the claim that _____
- X reminds us that _____
- X suggests that _____
- X urges us to _____

Introducing Quotations

- X states, “_____.”
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “_____.”
- According to X, “_____.”
- X himself writes, “_____.”
- In her book, _____, X maintains that “_____.”
- Writing in the journal *Commentary*, X complains that “_____.”
- In X’s view, “_____.”
- X agrees/disagrees when she writes, “_____.”
- X complicates matters further when he writes, “_____.”

Explaining Quotations

- Basically, X is saying _____.
- In other words, X believes _____.
- In making this comment, X argues that _____.
- X is insisting that _____
- X’s point is that _____
- The essence of X’s argument is that _____

Disagreeing, with Reasons

- I think X is mistaken because she overlooks _____
- X's claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.
- I disagree with X's view that _____ because, as recent research has show, _____
- X contradicts herself /can't have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues _____, but on the other hand, she also says _____
- By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____
- X claims _____, but we don't need him to tell us that. Anyone familiar with _____ has long know that _____

Agreeing – with a Difference

- I agree that _____ because my experience confirms it.
- X surely is right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____.
- X's theory of _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of _____
- I agree that _____, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe _____
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____
- If group X is right that _____, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that _____

Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously

- Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____
- Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____
- Though I concede that _____, I still insist that _____
- Whereas X provides ample evidence that _____, Y and Z's research on _____ and _____ convinces me that _____ instead.
- X is right that _____, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that _____
- While X is probably wrong when she claims that _____, she is right that _____
- I'm of two minds about X's claim that _____. On the one hand, I agree that _____. On the other hand, I'm not sure if _____
- My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support X's positions that _____, but I find Y's argument about _____ and Z's research on _____ to be equally persuasive.

Signaling Who Is Saying What

- X argues _____
- According to both X and Y, _____
- Politicians _____, X argues, should _____
- Most athletes will tell you that _____
- My own view, however, is that _____
- I agree, as X may not realize, that _____, but _____ are real and, arguably, the most significant factor in _____
- However X is wrong that _____
- However, it is simply not true that _____
- Indeed, it is highly likely that _____
- Nonetheless, the view that _____ does not fit all the facts.
- X is right that _____
- X is wrong that _____
- X is both right and wrong that _____
- A sober analysis of the matter reveals _____
- Nevertheless, new research shows _____
- Anyone familiar with _____ should see that _____

Embedding Voice Markers

- X overlooks what I consider an important point about _____
- My own view is that what X insists is a _____ is in fact a _____
- I wholeheartedly endorse what X calls _____
- These conclusions, which X discusses in _____, add weight to the argument that _____

Entertaining Objections

- At this point, I would like to raise some objections that have been inspired by the skeptic in me. She feels that I have been ignoring _____, “_____,” she says to me, “_____.”
- Thus far some readers may challenge the view that _____. After all, many believe _____. Indeed, my own argument that _____ seems to ignore _____ and _____
- Of course, many will probably disagree with the assertion that _____

Naming Your Nay Sayers

- Here many feminists would probably object that _____
- However social Darwinists would certainly take issue with the argument that _____
- Biologists, of course, may want to dispute my claim that _____
- Nevertheless, both followers and critics of Malcom X will probably argue that _____

- Although not all Christians think alike, some of them will probably dispute my claim that _____
- Non-native English speakers are so diverse in their views that it's hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on the grounds that _____

Introducing Objections Informally

- However, is my proposal realistic? What are the chances of its actually being adopted?
- Is it always true that _____? Is it always the case that _____?
- However, does the evidence cited prove conclusively that _____?

Making Concessions while Still Standing Your Ground

- Although I grant that _____, I still maintain that _____
- Proponents of X are right to argue that _____, but they exaggerate when they claim that _____
- While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____
- On the one hand, I agree with X that _____, but on the other hand, I still insist that _____

Indicating Who Cares

- _____ used to think _____, but recently / within the past few decades _____ suggests that _____
- What his new research does, then, is correct the mistaken impression, held by many earlier researchers, that _____
- These findings challenge the work of earlier researchers, who tended to assume that _____
- Recent studies like these shed new light on _____, which previous studies had not addressed.
- Researchers have long assumed that _____. For instance, one eminent scholar of cell biology, _____ assumed in _____, her seminal work on cell structures and functions, that fat cells _____. As _____ herself put it, "_____." Another leading scientist, _____, argued that fat cells "_____." Ultimately, when it came to the nature of fat, the basic assumption was that _____, but a new body of research shows that fat cells are far more complex and that _____
- If sports enthusiasts stopped to think about it, any of them might simply assume that the most successful athletes _____. However, new research shows _____.
- These findings challenge dieters' common assumptions that _____
- At first glance, teenagers appear to _____, but on closer inspection _____

Establishing Why Your Claims Matter

- X matters/is important because _____
- Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today's concern over _____

- 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 _____
- These conclusions / This discovery will have significant application in _____ as well as in _____
- Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of _____, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about _____

Adding Metacommentary

- In other words, _____
- What _____ really means by this is _____
- My point is _____
- Essentially, I am arguing that _____
- My point is not that we should _____, but that we should _____
- What _____ really means is _____
- In other words, _____
- To put it another way, _____
- In sum, then, _____
- My conclusion, then is that, _____
- In short, _____
- What is more important, _____
- Incidentally, _____
- By the way, _____
- Chapter two explores _____, while Chapter three examines _____

Commonly Used Transitions

- **Cause and Effect**

Accordingly	since
As a result	so
Consequently	then
Hence	therefore
It follows, then	thus

- **Conclusion**

As a result	so
Consequently	the upshot of all this is that
Hence	therefore
In conclusion, then	thus
In short	to sum up
In sum, then	to summarize
It follows, then	

- **Comparison**

Along the same line	likewise
In the same way	similarly

- **Contrast**

Although	nevertheless
But	nonetheless
By contrast	on the contrary
Conversely	on the other hand
Despite the fact that	regardless
Even though	whereas
However	while
In contrast	yet

- **Addition**

Also	in fact
And	indeed
Besides	moreover
Furthermore	so too
In addition	

- **Concession**

Admittedly	of course
Although it is true that	naturally
Granted	to be sure
I concede that	

- **Example**

After all	for instance
As an illustration	specifically
Consider	to take/taking a case in point
For example	

- **Elaboration**

Actually	to put it another way
By extension	to put it bluntly
In short	to put it succinctly
That is	ultimately
In other words	

