

Says and Does Statement Example:

Another tool for reflective thought that Bruffee provides is the descriptive outline or “says and does statements.” Descriptive outlines are a tool useful in the absence of peer review, a way for an individual to look at their own writing objectively. Bruffee frames says and does statements as “the closest thing in reading and writing to what mathematicians call a *proof*” (153). I, and I would like to think many other writers, have a hard time seeing the inefficiencies in my writing, even if I know they are there. In a proof, it isn’t so much about knowing that a triangle is isosceles so much as being able to explain the logical steps or processes that were employed to reach that understanding. So while one might think that they’re essay says one thing, what is important is understanding what tools the writer used to make that point over the course of however many paragraphs or pages. Says and does statements expose not only what the essay is saying or trying to say, but also the steps it is taking to say it. It is essentially a formal tool that Bruffee constructs to train an individual to be a reflective or *constructive* reader, of their own work and others’.

Says: The descriptive outline is a tool, similar to a mathematical proof, constructed by Kenneth Bruffee which assists writers in looking at their work objectively and ultimately help them expose the inefficiencies in it.

Does: Describes another method generated from the ideas proposed in the previous paragraphs, explains the method using an analogy, and clarifies its desired results.