

Academic Writing Templates

from *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, pages 303 - 313

Introducing What “They Say”	Introducing “Standard Views”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ A number of _____ have recently suggested that _____. ★ It has become common today to dismiss _____. ★ In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of _____ for _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Americans 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 assume that _____.
Introducing Quotations	Explaining Quotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ X states, “_____.” ★ X writes, “_____.” ★ As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “_____.” ★ According to X, “_____.” ★ X himself writes, “_____.” ★ In her book, _____, X maintains that “_____.” ★ Writing in the journal _____, X complains that “_____.” ★ In X’s view, “_____.” ★ X agrees when she writes, “_____.” ★ X disagrees when he writes, “_____.” ★ X complicates matters further when he writes, “_____.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Basically, X is saying _____. ★ In other words, X believes _____. ★ In making this comment, X urges us to _____. ★ X is corroborating the age-old adage that _____. ★ X’s point is that _____. ★ The essence of X’s argument is that _____. ★ In this excerpt X _____.
Capturing Authorial Action	Disagreeing, with Reasons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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 concedes that _____. ★ X demonstrates that _____. ★ X deplores the tendency to _____. ★ X celebrates the fact that _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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 shown, _____. ★ X contradicts herself/can’t have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues _____. On the other hand, she also says _____.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ X emphasizes that _____. ★ X insists that _____. ★ X observes that _____. ★ X questions whether _____. ★ X refutes the claim that _____. ★ X reminds us that _____. ★ X reports that _____. ★ X suggests that _____. ★ X urges us to _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.
Agreeing--with a Difference	Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ I agree that _____ because my experience _____ confirms it. ★ X surely is right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent students have shown that _____. ★ X's theory of _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of _____. ★ Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____. ★ I agree that _____, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe _____. ★ If group X is right that _____, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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 position that _____, but I find Y's argument about _____ and Z's research on _____ to be equally persuasive.
Signaling who is Saying What	Establishing why your Claims Matter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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

most significant factor in _____.

★ But X is wrong that _____.

★ However, it is simply not true that _____.

★ Indeed, it is highly likely that _____.

★ X's assertion that _____ does not fit the facts.

★ X is right that _____.

★ X is wrong that _____.

★ X is both right and wrong that _____.

★ Yet a sober analysis of the matter reveals _____.

★ Nevertheless, new research shows _____.

★ Anyone familiar with _____ should agree that _____.

for the broader domain of

_____.

★ My discussion of X is in fact addressing the larger matter of _____.

★ These conclusions/This discovery will have significant applications 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 _____.