

# Sentence Templates + Transitions

Derived from Graff and Birkenstein's crazy-helpful [They Say, I Say](#)

## Introducing What "They Say"

- A number of \_\_\_\_\_ have recently suggested that \_\_\_\_\_.
- It has become common today to dismiss (or make fun of) \_\_\_\_\_.
- In their recent work, Y and Z have harshly criticized \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing What an Author Says

- 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 celebrates the fact that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X insists that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X questions whether \_\_\_\_\_.
- X reminds us that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X reports that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing "Standard Views"

- Americans today tend to believe that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Common sense seems to say that \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is often said that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many people assume that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing an Ongoing Debate

- In discussions of \_\_\_\_\_, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_. On the one hand, \_\_\_\_\_ argues \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ opposes \_\_\_\_\_. Others even believe \_\_\_\_\_. 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 \_\_\_\_\_. While some are convinced that \_\_\_\_\_, others believe that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Using a Quotation (i.e., Backing up your argument with proof)

- X states, “\_\_\_\_\_” ( ).
  - Standage states, “Some [drinks] have served to highlight the power and status of the elite” (2).
- According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_” ( ).
  - According to Standage, “Wine was the lifeblood of [Greece]” (3).
- X himself writes, “\_\_\_\_\_” ( ).
  - Standage himself writes, “Six beverages... chart the flow of world history” (2).
  - Odysseus himself says, “I longed for sweet Penelope” (9.21).
- In his book, \_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that “\_\_\_\_\_” ( ).
  - In his book, *A History of the World in Six Glasses*, Standage maintains that “Greek and Roman knowledge... had been safeguarded and extended by scholars in the Arab world” (4).
- Writing in the magazine \_\_\_\_\_, X complains that “\_\_\_\_\_” ( ).
  - Writing in the online magazine *Salon*, Weitz complains that “reality television is little more than gladiatorial combat” (3).
- X agrees when she writes, “\_\_\_\_\_” ( ).
  - I believe wine was the most influential drink in history. Standage agrees when he writes, “Wine was the lifeblood of [Greece]” (4).

## Explaining a Quotation (i.e., Showing that you understand what the quote says)

- Basically, X is saying \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Basically, Standage is saying that wine is what made Greece and Rome so powerful. That’s a pretty bold claim.
- In other words, X believes \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In other words, Standage believes that beer was crucial in the founding of ancient civilizations. It’s almost as if he’s saying that beer built the pyramids.
- In making this comment, X urges us to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In making this comment, Standage urges us to look at something as common as a bottle of Coca Cola and to consider its historical significance.
- X’s point is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Odysseus’ point is that, since he is a man, he couldn’t help but fall for Circe’s beguiling manner.
- The essence of X’s argument is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The essence of Tanner’s argument is that memorizing massive lists of vocabulary will pay off in the future when difficult words are encountered.

## Argument Sentence Starters:

## Intermediate Level

### Naming Your *Naysayers* or *Opponents* (i.e., Introducing your rebuttal)

- Here many \_\_\_\_\_ would probably object that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Here many proponents of choice reading would probably object that complex texts destroy the enjoyment of reading.
- Of course, \_\_\_\_\_s would certainly take issue with the argument that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Of course, antiglobalization activists would certainly take issue with the argument that globalization helps out developing countries.
- \_\_\_\_\_s, of course, may want to question whether \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Patriots, of course, may want to question whether the United States is acting out of selfish motives in its wars overseas.
- Nevertheless, critics of \_\_\_\_\_ will probably argue that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Nevertheless, critics of student-chosen reading will probably argue that reading complex texts is the only way to increase reading levels.
- Although not all \_\_\_\_\_s think alike, some of them will probably dispute my claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Although not all globalization fans think alike, some of them will probably dispute my claim that globalized companies are destroying developing countries.

### Making a Concession (i.e., They have a point, BUT...)

- Proponents of X are right to argue that \_\_\_\_\_. But they are exaggerating when they claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Proponents of complex texts are right to argue that reading such material is essential for post-secondary success. But they are exaggerating when they claim that Standage's book is the only possible complex text for world history students to read.
- While it is true that \_\_\_\_\_, it does not necessary follow that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - While it is true that Tom Standage's book is extremely challenging for freshmen, it does not necessarily follow that freshmen should not have the opportunity to read it.
- On the one hand, X is right to say \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, it is still true that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - On the one hand, Occupy Wall Street is right to say that corporate greed has caused great harm to our economy. On the other hand, it is still true that there are many reputable corporations that have greatly strengthened the economy.

### Disagreeing, with Reasons (i.e., They are just wrong)

- X is mistaken because she overlooks \_\_\_\_\_.

- 
- X's claim that \_\_\_\_\_ rests upon the questionable assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X can't have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, she also says \_\_\_\_\_.
- By focusing on \_\_\_\_\_, X overlooks the deeper problem of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Establishing Why Your Claims Matter (i.e., Why should I care about this argument?)**

- X matters because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - High school matters because it either opens or closes doors into the rest of my life.
- Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today's concern over \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Although doing homework may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of succeeding in high school and developing my brain.
- Ultimately, what is at stake here is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ultimately, what is at stake here is my lifelong flourishing; being lazy now means being unhappy for decades.
- Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of \_\_\_\_\_, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Although high school may seem of concern to only a small group of nerdy students, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about having an enjoyable life.

## Transitions

### For ADDING IDEAS:

*also*                      *another*                      *in fact*                      *equally important*                      *moreover*  
*furthermore*                      *additionally*                      *indeed*                      *in addition*

### For MAKING A CONTRAST:

*however*                      *nevertheless*                      *although*                      *conversely*  
*on the contrary*                      *notwithstanding*                      *even though*                      *all the same*                      *on*  
*the other hand*                      *by contrast*                      *nonetheless*

### For COMPARING:

*likewise*                      *equally*                      *along the same lines*  
*similarly*                      *in comparison*                      *in the same way*

### For CITING AN EXAMPLE:

*for example*                      *in other words*                      *in fact*  
*for instance*                      *specifically*                      *after all*  
*as an illustration*                      *consider*

### For SHOWING RESULTS:

*accordingly*                      *hence*                      *consequently*  
*as a result*                      *thus*                      *therefore*

### For REINFORCING AN IDEA:

*especially important*                      *above all*                      *most noteworthy*  
*especially relevant*                      *a significant factor*                      *most of all*

### For ELABORATING (expanding upon a point):

*actually*                      *by extension*                      *to put it another way*  
*to put it bluntly*                      *in short*                      *to put it succinctly*  
*in other words*                      *ultimately*

### For CONCEDED A POINT:

*admittedly*                      *of course*                      *although it is true that*  
*naturally*                      *granted*                      *to be sure*

### For CONCLUDING:

*clearly*                      *hence*                      *consequently*  
*obviously*                      *therefore*                      *thus*  
*in short*                      *all in all*

She went to the store and bought grapes, my faves; bananas, which I hate; apples, which I L-O-V-E love; bononos, which I'm related to; and benenees, which I like to throw at people.

JP, the gerbil; Aron, the student; and Hunter, the ballerina: all of them gleefully attacked the llamas and lit them on fire.