Templates for Introducing What “They Say” (21)

- 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 ____________.

Templates for Introducing “Standard Views” (22)

- 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 ________________.
- You would think that ________________.
- Many people assume that ____________________.

Templates for Making What “They Say” Something You Say (22-3)

- 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 I believe ____________, I also believe ________________.

Templates for Introduction Something Implied of Assumed (23)

- 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 taken for granted that ________________.

Templates for Introducing an Ongoing Debate (24-6)

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been ________________. On the one 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 ________________.
Here's one for concluding your argument: In conclusion, then, as I suggested earlier, defenders of __________ can’t have it both ways. Their assertion that _______________ is contradicted by their claim that ________________.

**TEMPLATES FOR INTRODUCING SUMMARIES AND QUOTATIONS (36, 43)**

- She demonstrates that ________________.
- In fact, they celebrate the fact that ________________
- ________________, he admits.
- 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 when she writes, “______________.”
- X disagrees when he writes, “______________.”
- X complicates matters further when she writes, “______________.”

**TEMPLATES FOR EXPLAINING QUOTATIONS (44)**

- 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 ________________.

**TEMPLATES FOR DISAGREEING, WITH REASONS (55)**

- 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 ________________.
- By focusing on ________________, X overlooks the deeper problem of ________________.
- X claims ________________, but we don’t him to tell us that. Anyone familiar with ________________ has long known ________________.
TEMPLATES FOR AGREEING (57)

- I agree that _______________ because my experience _______________ confirms it.
- X is surely 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 _______________.

TEMPLATES FOR AGREEING AND DISAGREEING SIMULTANEOUSLY (60)

- Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _______________.
- Although I disagree with much of what X say, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _______________.
- Though I concede that _______________, I still insist that _______________.
- 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 _______________.
- Whereas X provides ample evidence that _______________, Y and Z’s research on _______________ and _______________ convinces me that _______________ instead.
- 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.

TEMPLATES FOR ENTERTAINING OBJECTIONS (78)

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

Name your objectors (79)

- Here many feminists would probably object that _______________.
- But 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 Malcolm X will probably suggest otherwise and argue that _______________.

**Informal objection introductions (80)**

- But is my proposal realistic? What are the chances of its actually being adopted?
- Yet is it always true that ____________? Is it always the case, as I have been suggesting, that ____________?
- However, does the evidence I’ve cited prove conclusively that ____________?

**TEMPLATES FOR INDICATING WHO CARES (91)**

- ____________ used to think _____________. But recently _____________ suggests that _____________.
- This interpretation challenges the work of those critics who have long assumed 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.

**BONUS! VERBS FOR INTRODUCING SUMMARIES AND QUOTATIONS (37)**

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Compiled by Mark Willhardt, 4-7-2011