

Templates from “*They Say/I Say*”

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”

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 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 controversy 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 _____.

In conclusion, then, as I suggested earlier, defenders of _____ can't have it both ways. Their assertion that _____ is contradicted by their claim that _____.

Capturing Authorial Intention

X acknowledges that _____.

X refutes the claim that _____.

X agrees that _____.

X reminds us that _____.

X argues that _____.

X reports that _____.

X believes that _____.

X suggests that _____.

X denies/does not deny that _____.

X urges us to _____.

X claims that _____.

X complains that _____.

X concedes that _____.

X demonstrates that _____.

X explores the tendency to _____.

X celebrates the fact that _____.

X emphasizes that _____.

X insists that _____.

X observes that _____.

X questions whether _____.

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 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 shown, _____.

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 known that _____.

Agreeing—With a Difference

I agree that _____ because my experience _____ confirms it.

X is surely right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies suggest 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 is 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 _____.

Although not all Christians think alike, some of them will probably dispute my claim that _____.

Non-native speakers of English 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 Formally

But is my proposal realistic? What are the chances of it 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 _____?

“Impossible,” you say. “Your evidence must be skewed.”

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 _____.

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 [or within the last few decades] _____ suggests that _____.

What this 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.

If sports enthusiasts stopped to think about it, many of them might simply assume that the most successful athletes _____. However, new research shows _____.

These findings challenge dieters’ common assumption that _____.

At first glance teenagers appear to _____. But on closer inspection _____.

Establishing Why Your Claims Matter

X matters/ is really 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 applications in _____ as well as in _____.

Although X may seem of concern only to a small group of _____, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about _____.

Explaining Your Explanation

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 _____.

To put it another way _____.

In sum, then _____.

My conclusion, then, is that _____.

In short _____.

What is more important_____.