

## ***Strategies and Structures from “They Say/I Say”***

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Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst. *“They Say/I Say.”* New York: Norton, 2006.

### **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)**

For Making a Claim	
Argue Assert Believe Claim Emphasize	Insist Observe Remind us Report Suggest
For Expressing Agreement	
Acknowledge Admire Agree Celebrate the fact that Corroborate Do not deny	Endorse Extol Praise Reaffirm Support Verify
For Questioning or Disagreeing	
Complain Complicate Contend Contradict Deny Deplore the tendency to	Disavow Question Refute Reject Renounce Repudiate
For Making Recommendations	
Advocate Call for Demand Encourage Exhort	Implore Plead Recommend Urge Warn