

Tips for Writers • Introducing Sources

USEFUL TEMPLATES¹--Need help incorporating your sources and/or making certain rhetorical moves in your paper? These templates might help!

INTRODUCING WHAT “THEY SAY” (Introducing expert theories)

- 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 this 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 _____.
- Many people assumed that _____.

INTRODUCING AN ONGOING DEBATE

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been _____. On one hand, _____ argues _____. On the other hand, _____ contends _____. Others even maintain _____.
- 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 _____ in contradicted by their claim that _____.

INTRODUCING QUOTATIONS (“I” in I.C.E.)

- X states, “_____.”
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “_____.”
- According to X, “_____.”
- X himself writes, “_____.”
- In her book, _____, X maintains that “_____.”
- Writing 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 he writes, “_____.”

¹ Courtesy the Odegaard Writing & Research Center (<http://www.depts.washington.edu/owrc>) Adapted from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter In Academic Writing*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006.

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EXPLAINING QUOTATIONS (“E” in I.C.E.)

- 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 _____.

ESTABLISHING WHY YOUR CLAIM MATTERS

- 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 for the broader domain 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 _____.

INTRODUCING OPPONENTS

- Yet some readers may challenge the view that _____. After all, many believe _____. Indeed, the argument presented in this essay that _____ seems to ignore _____ and _____.
- Of course, many will probably disagree with this assertion that _____.
- Nevertheless, both *followers and critics of Malcolm X* will probably argue that _____.
- Although not all *Christians* think alike, some of them will probably dispute this essay’s claim that _____.
- *Non-native English speakers* are so diverse in their views that it’s hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on the grounds that _____.

DISAGREEING, WITH REASONS

- X is mistaken because she overlooks _____.
- X’s claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.
- X’s view that _____ is flawed 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 _____.

AGREEING AND DISAGREEING SIMULTANEOUSLY

- Although X is correct up to a point, his overall conclusion is flawed in that _____.
- Although much of what X says is unfounded, his final conclusion that _____ makes a strong point.
- 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 _____.

MAKING CONCESSIONS WHILE STILL STANDING YOUR GROUND

- Proponents of X are right to argue that _____. But they exaggerate when they claim that _____.
- While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.
- On the one hand, this essay agrees with X that _____. But on the other hand, it still insists that _____.