Tips for Writers ● Introducing Sources

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


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 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 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, “________.”

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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 ________, is 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 ________.