

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## They Say, I Say Templates

### 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 \_\_\_\_.

### 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 *ABC*, X complains that “\_\_\_\_.”
- In X’s view, “\_\_\_\_.”
- X agrees when she writes, “\_\_\_\_.”
- X disagrees when he 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 \_\_\_\_.

### ESTABLISHING WHY YOUR CLAIMS MATTER

- X matters/is important because \_\_\_\_.
- Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in today’s concern over \_\_\_\_.
- Ultimately, what is at stake here is \_\_\_\_.
- These findings have important consequences for the broader domain that \_\_\_\_.
- 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 to only a small group of \_\_\_\_, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about \_\_\_\_.

### ADDING METACOMMENTARY

- 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 \_\_\_\_.
- What \_\_\_\_ really means is \_\_\_\_.
- To put it another way, \_\_\_\_.
- In sum, then, \_\_\_\_.
- My conclusion, then, is that \_\_\_\_.
- In short, \_\_\_\_.
- What is more important, \_\_\_\_.
- Incidentally, \_\_\_\_.
- By the way, \_\_\_\_.
- Chapter 2 explores \_\_\_\_, while Chapter 3 examines \_\_\_\_.
- Having just argued that \_\_\_\_, let us now turn our attention to \_\_\_\_.
- Although some readers may object that \_\_\_\_, I would answer that \_\_\_\_.

### **Introducing Something Implied or Assumed**

- Although X does not say so directly, she/he apparently assumes that \_\_\_\_\_.
- While they rarely admit as much, \_\_\_\_\_ often take for granted that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Introducing An Outgoing Debate**

→ In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_. On the one hand, \_\_\_\_\_ argues \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ even contends \_\_\_\_\_. My own view is that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

→ When it comes to the topics of \_\_\_\_\_, most people will readily agree that \_\_\_\_\_. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of \_\_\_\_\_. Whereas some are convinced that \_\_\_\_\_, others maintain that \_\_\_\_\_.

→ As I suggested earlier, defenders of \_\_\_\_\_ can't have it both ways. Their assertion that \_\_\_\_\_ is contradicted by their claim that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Capturing Authorial Action**

- X acknowledges that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X agreed that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X argues that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X complains that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X demonstrates that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X emphasizes that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Disagreeing, with Reasons**

- I think that X is mistaken because he/she overlooks \_\_\_\_\_.
- X's claim that \_\_\_\_\_ rests upon the questionable assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.
- I disagree with X's view that \_\_\_\_\_ because, as recent research (personal experience) has shown, \_\_\_\_\_.
- By focusing on \_\_\_\_\_, X overlooks the deeper problem of \_\_\_\_\_.
- X claims \_\_\_\_\_, but we don't need him/her to tell us that. Anyone familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ has long known that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Agreeing—with a Difference**

- X is surely right about \_\_\_\_\_ because, as he/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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously**

- Although I agree with X to a point, I cannot accept his/her overall conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although I disagree with much of what X says, I fully endorse his/her final conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Though I concede that \_\_\_\_\_, I still insist that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is right that \_\_\_\_\_, but she seems to be on more dubious ground when she/he states \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Source:**

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. "Index of Templates." They Say/ I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2006. 163-76.