

## Why Templates?

Academic writing requires presenting your sources and your ideas effectively to readers. According to Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein (2014), the first element in the process involves “entering a conversation about ideas between you—the writer—and your sources to reflect your critical thinking” (ix). The templates allow you, the writer, to organize your ideas in relationship to your thesis, supporting evidence, opposing evidence, and conclusion of the argument.

### The Most Important Templates

- On the one hand, \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Author X contradicts herself. At the same time that she argues \_\_\_\_\_, she also implies \_\_\_\_\_.
- I agree that \_\_\_\_\_.
- She argues \_\_\_\_\_, and I agree because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Her argument that \_\_\_\_\_ is supported by new research showing that \_\_\_\_\_.
- In recent discussions of \_\_\_\_\_, a controversial issue has been whether \_\_\_\_\_. On the one hand, some argue that \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, others argue that \_\_\_\_\_.

### Introducing Standard Views

- Americans today tend to believe that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Conventional wisdom has it that \_\_\_\_\_.
- My whole life I have heard it said that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Making Those Views Something You Say

- I have always believed that \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I was a child, I used to think that \_\_\_\_\_.

### Writing a Summary

- She demonstrates that \_\_\_\_\_.
- In fact, they celebrate the fact that \_\_\_\_\_.

### Introducing a Quote

- X insists, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- In her Book Title, X maintains that “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- X complicates matters further when she writes that “\_\_\_\_\_.”

### Disagreeing

- I think that X is mistaken because she overlooks \_\_\_\_\_.
- I disagree with X’s view that \_\_\_\_\_ because, as recent research has shown, \_\_\_\_\_.

### Introducing Your Point of View

- X overlooks what I consider an important point about \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wholeheartedly endorse what X calls \_\_\_\_\_.
- My discussion of X is in fact addressing the larger issue of \_\_\_\_\_.
- These conclusions will have significant applications in \_\_\_\_\_ as well as in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Figure 7.9** “They Say / I Say” Templates

Source: Graff and Birkenstein 2014