

*The best academic writing has one underlying feature: it is deeply engaged in some way with other people's views.*

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, *"They Say/I Say"*

Sometimes we all need a place to start. The following writing templates will give you a starting place from which to generate and organize your argument, elaborate on it even when you feel like you have nothing more to say, and then revise and finalize it. These templates are not meant to stifle your creativity, but rather, to jump-start it by allowing you to examine what others say about your topic and using that as a starting place for you to share what you think. All you need to do is choose the appropriate template for the appropriate writing situation and then join in the conversation.

Capturing Authorial Action	Introducing Quotations	Explaining Quotations
<p>X acknowledges that _____.</p> <p>X agrees that _____.</p> <p>X argues that _____.</p> <p>X believes that _____.</p> <p>X denies/does not deny that _____.</p> <p>X claims that _____.</p> <p>X complains that _____.</p> <p>X concedes that _____.</p> <p>X demonstrates that _____.</p> <p>X deplores the tendency to _____.</p> <p>X celebrates the fact that _____.</p> <p>X emphasizes that _____.</p> <p>X insists that _____.</p> <p>X observes that _____.</p> <p>X questions whether _____.</p> <p>X refutes the claim that _____.</p> <p>X reminds us that _____.</p> <p>X reports that _____.</p> <p>X suggests that _____.</p> <p>X urges us to _____.</p>	<p>X states, "_____."</p> <p>According to X, "_____."</p> <p>X himself writes, "_____."</p> <p>In her book, _____, X maintains that _____."</p> <p>In X's view, "_____."</p> <p>X agrees when she writes, "_____."</p> <p>X disagrees when he writes, "_____."</p> <p>X complicates matters further when he writes _____."</p> <p><b>Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously</b></p> <p>X is right that _____, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that _____.</p> <p>While X is probably wrong when she claims that _____, she is right that _____.</p>	<p>Basically, X is saying _____.</p> <p>In other words, X believes _____.</p> <p>In making this comment, X urges us to _____.</p> <p>X is corroborating the age-old adage that _____.</p> <p>X's point is that _____.</p> <p>The essence of X's argument is that _____.</p> <p><b>Disagreeing, with Reasons</b></p> <p>X's claim that _____ rests on the questionable assumption that _____.</p> <p>By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.</p>

Agreeing—with a Difference	Naming Your Naysayers	Starting with What Others Say About A Literary Work
<p>X surely is right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____.</p> <p>X's theory of _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of _____.</p> <p>Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Embedding Voice Markers</b></p> <p>X overlooks an important point about _____. These conclusions, which X discusses in _____, add weight to the argument that _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Entertaining Objections</b></p> <p>Yet some readers may challenge the view that _____.</p> <p>Of course, many will probably disagree with This assertion that _____.</p>	<p>Here many _____ would probably object that _____.</p> <p>But _____ would certainly take issue with the argument that _____.</p> <p>_____, of course, may want to question whether _____.</p> <p>Nevertheless, both followers and critics of _____ will probably argue that _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Making Concessions While Still Standing Your Ground</b></p> <p>While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.</p> <p>Although it is possible that _____, _____ shows that _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adding Metacommentary</b></p> <p>In other words, _____.</p> <p>What _____ really means is _____.</p> <p>To put it another way, _____.</p> <p>What is more important, _____.</p> <p>Incidentally, _____.</p> <p>Having just argued that _____, let us now turn our attention to _____.</p>	<p>According to Critic A, novel X suggests _____; however, _____.</p> <p>It might be said that poem Y is chiefly about _____, but the problem with this reading is _____.</p> <p>Though _____ might be tempted to analyze poem X as a _____ about _____, a closer examination suggests that the poem is in fact about _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Showing Evidence When Writing About a Literary Work</b></p> <p>Although some might read the metaphor of _____ in this poem as evidence, that for Author X, _____, in reality it is _____.</p> <p>Some might claim that evidence X suggests _____; on the contrary, it suggests _____.</p>

**Work Cited:**

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014.