

Writing Template Sentence Stems

The following templates help writers introduce and discuss sources ('they') when writing. Additionally, these templates help writers summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas of their sources in order to help the writer establish credibility.

Templates for Introducing "Standard Views"

Standard views are views that have become so widely accepted that by now it is essentially the conventional way of thinking about a topic. [*The underlined word can be replaced with other nouns appropriate to your field of study—researchers, scientists, politicians, feminists, etc.*]

- 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 been _____.
- Many students assume that _____.
- It is often said that _____.

Templates to Introduce Summaries or Paraphrases

- X acknowledges that _____.
- X agrees that _____.
- X argues that _____.
- X believes that _____.
- X denies/ does not deny that _____.
- X claims that _____.
- X complains that _____.
- X concedes that _____.
- X demonstrates that _____.
- X deplores the tendency to _____.
- X celebrates the fact that _____.
- X emphasizes that _____.
- X insists that _____.
- X observes that _____.
- X questions whether _____.
- X refutes the claim that _____.
- X reminds us that _____.
- X reports that _____.
- X suggests that _____.
- X urges us to _____.

Frame Every Quote

Since quotations do not speak for themselves, you need to build a frame around them in which you do that speaking for them. You need to make a 'quotation sandwich' [*Introduction-quotation-explanation*]. Introduce the quotation adequately by explaining who is speaking and setting up what the quotation says. Then follow up with explaining why you consider the quotation important and what you take it to say. Don't forget to cite your source!

For introducing quotations:

- X states, " _____."
- X insists, " _____."
- As the _____ puts it, " _____."

- As the author, X, puts it, "_____."
- According to X, "_____."
- X him/herself writes, "_____."
- In her book, book title, X maintains that "_____."
- Writing in the journal commentary, X complains that "_____."
- In X's view, "_____."
- X complicates matters further when he writes, "_____."

Explaining Quotations

- Basically, X is saying/suggesting/arguing/proposing/denying that _____.
- In other words, X believes/suggests/confirms/observes/illustrates _____.
- In making this comment, X argues/contends/proposes/questions that _____.
- X is insisting/proposing that _____.
- X's point is that _____.
- The essence of X's argument is that _____.

How to offer your own argument as a response to what the author said.

Remember, an essay doesn't become persuasive until you clearly define your own thoughts on the subject matter. In essays, we do this by responding to what the author(s) said. Use these sentence stems to help you as you frame what it is you want to say in response to what you read in the text(s).

Disagreeing, with Reasons

- I think X is mistaken because she overlooks _____.
- X's claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.
- I completely disagree with X because...
- I disagree with X's view that _____ because, as recent research has shown, _____.
- X contradicts himself/can't have it both ways. On the one hand, he argues _____. But on the other hand, he also says _____.
- By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

Agreeing

- I agree that _____ because my experience _____ confirms it.
- I wholeheartedly agree with X because...
- X is surely right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____.
- X's theory of _____ is extremely useful because it shed insight on the difficult problem of _____.
- I agree that _____, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe _____.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____.

Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously

- Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____.
- Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____.
- Though I concede that _____, I still insist that _____.
- 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 _____.