Writing Template 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. [*The () represents the placement of your in-text citation*.]

**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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**“I Say” examples- how to offer your own argument as a response to what the author said.**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_\_.