Index of Templates from *They Say, I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein.

**Introducing What They Say**

- A number of sociologists have recently suggested that X’s work has several fundamental problems.
- It has become common today to dismiss X’s contribution to the field of sociology.
- In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of Dr. X for _____.

**Introducing Standard Views**

- American 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 _____

**Making What They Say Something You Say**

- I’ve always believed that _____
- When I was a child, I used to think that _____
- Although I should know better by now, I cannot help thinking that _____
- At the same time that I believe _____, I also believe _____

**Introducing Something Implied or Assumed**

- Although none of them have ever said so directly, my teachers have often given me the impression that _____
- One implication of X’s treatment of ____ is that _____
- Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that _____
- While they rarely admit as much, _____ often take for granted that _____

**Introducing an Ongoing Debate**

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been _____
- On the other hand, ____ argues _____
- On the other hand, ____ contends ____. Others even maintain _____
- My own view is _____
- When it comes to the topic of _____, most of us will readily agree that _____
- Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of _____
- Whereas some are convinced that _____, others maintain that _____
- In conclusion, then, defenders of _____ can’t have it both ways. Their assertion that _____ is contradicted by their claim that _____.
Capturing Authorial Action

- 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 conceded 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 suggests that _____
- X urges us to _____

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 Commentary, X complains that “_____.”
- In X’s view, “_____.”
- X agrees/disagrees when she 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 _____
Disagreeing, with Reasons

- I think X is mistaken because she overlooks _____
- X’s claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.
- I disagree with X’s view that _____ because, as recent research has show, _____
- X contradicts herself /can’t have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues _____, but on the other hand, she also says _____
- By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____
- X claims _____, but we don’t need him to tell us that. Anyone familiar with ____ has long know that _____

Agreeing – with a Difference

- I agree that _____ because my experience confirms it.
- X surely is right about _____ because, as 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 _____
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____
- If group X is right that _____, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that _____

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 _____
- Whereas X provides ample evidence that _____, Y and Z’s research on ____ and ____ convinces me that _____ instead.
- 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 _____
- I’m of two minds about X’s claim that _____. On the one hand, I agree that ______.
  On the other hand, I’m not sure if ______
- My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support X’s positions that ______, but I find Y’s argument about ____ and Z’s research on _____ to be equally persuasive.
Signaling Who Is Saying What

- X argues _____
- According to both X and Y, _____
- Politicians _____, X argues, should _____
- Most athletes will tell you that _____
- My own view, however, is that _____
- I agree, as X may not realize, that _____, but _____ are real and, arguably, the most significant factor in _____
- However X is wrong that _____
- However, it is simply not true that _____
- Indeed, it is highly likely that _____
- Nonetheless, the view that _____ does not fit all the facts.
- X is right that _____
- X is wrong that _____
- X is both right and wrong that _____
- A sober analysis of the matter reveals _____
- Nevertheless, new research shows _____
- Anyone familiar with _____ should see that _____

Embedding Voice Markers

- X overlooks what I consider an important point about _____
- My own view is that what X insists is a _____ is in fact a _____
- I wholeheartedly endorse what X calls _____
- These conclusions, which X discusses in _____, add weight to the argument that _____

Entertaining Objections

- At this point, I would like to raise some objections that have been inspired by the skeptic in me. She feels that I have been ignoring _____, “_____,” she says to me, “_____.”
- Thus far some readers may challenge the view that _____, After all, many believe _____, Indeed, my own argument that ____ seems to ignore ____ and ____
- Of course, many will probably disagree with the assertion that _____

Naming Your Nay Sayers

- Here many feminists would probably object that _____
- However social Darwinists would certainly take issue with the argument that _____
- Biologists, of course, may want to dispute my claim that _____
- Nevertheless, both followers and critics of Malcom X will probably argue that _____
• Although not all Christians think alike, some of them will probably dispute my claim that _____
• Non-native English speakers are so diverse in their views that it’s hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on the grounds that _____

Introducing Objections Informally
• However, is my proposal realistic? What are the chances of its actually being adopted?
• Is it always true that _____? Is it always the case that _____?
• However, does the evidence cited prove conclusively that _____?

Making Concessions while Still Standing Your Ground
• Although I grant that_____. I still maintain that_____.
• Proponents of X are right to argue that_____, but they exaggerate when they claim that_____.
• While it is true that_____, it does not necessarily follow that_____.
• On the one hand, I agree with X that_____, but on the other hand, I still insist that_____.

Indicating Who Cares
• _____used to think _____, but recently / within the past few decades _____ suggests that_____.
• What his new research does, then, is correct the mistaken impression, held by many earlier researchers, that_____.
• These finding challenge the work of earlier researchers, who tended to assume that_____.
• Recent studies like these shed new light on_____, which previous studies had not addressed.
• Researchers have long assumed that_____. For instance, one eminent scholar of cell biology, _____ assumed in _____, her seminal work on cell structures and functions, that fate cells_____. As _____ herself put it, “_____.” Another leading scientist, _____, argued that fat cells “_____.” Ultimately, when it came to the nature of fat, the basic assumption was that_____, but a new body of research shows that fat cells are far more complex and that_____.
• If sports enthusiasts stopped to think about it, any of them might simply assume that the most successful athletes______. However, new research shows______.
• These findings challenge dieters’ common assumptions that_____.
• At first glance, teenagers appear to______, but on closer inspection______.

Establishing Why Your Claims Matter
• X matters/is important because_____.
• Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today’s concern over_____.

• Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____
• These findings have important consequences for the broader domain of _____
• My discussion of X is in fact addressing the larger matter of _____
• These conclusions / This discovery will have significant application 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 _____
• In other words, _____
• To put it another way, _____
• In sum, then, _____
• My conclusion, then is that, _____
• In short, _____
• What is more important, _____
• Incidentally, _____
• By the way, _____
• Chapter two explores _____, while Chapter three examines _____

Commonly Used Transitions

• Cause and Effect
  Accordingly since
  As a result so
  Consequently then
  Hence therefore
  It follows, then thus

• Conclusion
  As a result so
  Consequently the upshot of all this is that
  Hence therefore
  In conclusion, then thus
  In short to sum up
  In sum, then to summarize
  It follows, then
• **Comparison**  
Along the same line  
In the same way

• **Contrast**  
Although  
But  
By contrast  
Conversely  
Despite the fact that  
Even though  
However  
In contrast

• **Addition**  
Also  
And  
Besides  
Furthermore  
In addition

• **Concession**  
Admittedly  
Although it is true that  
Granted  
I concede that

• **Example**  
After all  
As an illustration  
Consider  
For example

• **Elaboration**  
Actually  
By extension  
In short  
That is  
In other words