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  likewise
  In the same way  similarly

- **Contrast**
  Although  nevertheless
  But  nonetheless
  By contrast  on the contrary
  Conversely  on the other hand
  Despite the fact that  regardless
  Even though  whereas
  However  while
  In contrast  yet

- **Addition**
  Also  in fact
  And  indeed
  Besides  moreover
  Furthermore  so too
  In addition

- **Concession**
  Admittedly  of course
  Although it is true that  naturally
  Granted  to be sure
  I concede that

- **Example**
  After all  for instance
  As an illustration  specifically
  Consider  to take/taking a case in point
  For example

- **Elaboration**
  Actually  to put it another way
  By extension  to put it bluntly
  In short  to put it succinctly
  That is  ultimately
  In other words