

Discussing Evidence Using *They Say, I Say*

Your professors might tell you that you need to “enter a conversation” with scholars, but doing so can seem intimidating. Fear not! *They Say, I Say* provides helpful templates to help you articulate your arguments. Check out the templates below or visit the Writing Center and reference *They Say, I Say*.

He Says/She Says/ They Say

A number of _____ have recently suggested that _____.

In their recent work, X and Y have offered harsh critiques of _____ for _____.

Conventional wisdom is _____. However, in academic discussions of _____, one controversial issue has been _____.

Ultimately, X urges us to _____.

The essence of X’s argument is that _____.

You Say (Disagreeing with Author)

X is mistaken because s/he overlooks _____.

X’s claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.

X contradicts herself when discussing the topic/issue/concern/idea of _____. On one hand, she argues _____. On the other hand, she also says _____.

By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

I challenge the view that _____ because _____.

X exaggerates when he claims that _____.

While it is easy to accept X’s claim about _____, closer examination of the issue leads to _____.

My discussion of _____ addresses the larger/ more important matter of _____.

You Say (Simultaneously Disagreeing and Agreeing)

Although I grant that _____, I maintain that _____ is of greater importance/consequence.

While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.

Although I disagree with much of what X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____.

Although I agree with X about _____, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____.

X is right that _____, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims 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 _____.

You Say: Agreeing with Author

I agree with X because _____ had broader implications for _____.

X is right about _____ because _____.

X's contention that _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on _____.

I agree that _____, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe _____.

Signaling Who is Saying What

X argues _____.

According to X, _____.

The U.S. government _____, X argues, should _____.

My own view, however, is that _____.

I agree, as X may not realize, that _____.

But X is wrong that _____.

Nevertheless, new research shows _____.

However, it is not true that _____.

Indeed, it is highly likely that _____.

Introducing Quotations

X states, “ _____.”

As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “ _____.”

According to X, “ _____.”

In her book, _____, X maintains that “ _____.”

Writing in the journal, _____, X complains that “ _____.”

In X’s view, “ _____.”

X agrees by claiming “ _____.”

X disagrees by.....

X complicates/extends/extrapolates/emphasizes matters further when X writes,
“ _____.”