Discussing Evidence Using *They Say, I Say*

Your professors might tell you that you need to “enter a conversation” with scholars, and 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, “__________.”