

## Templates for Writing about Ideas and Research

*One of the more difficult aspects of writing an argument based on research is establishing your position in the ongoing conversation about the topic. The templates below are meant to help you make standard moves that all researchers use to present, discuss, critique and argue about ideas. You should feel free to adapt any template to your own style once you are comfortable with using it--such adaptation should happen naturally, anyway.*

### I. Introducing What “They Say”

- A number of critics 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 Y.
- In their recent work, X and Y have harsh critiques of Z for \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Introducing “Standard Views”

- Americans today tend to believe that \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to conventional wisdom \_\_\_\_\_.
- Common sense seems to dictate that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The standard way of thinking about [topic X] has it that \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is often said that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many people assume that \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Introducing Something Implied or Assumed

- One implication of X’s treatment of \_\_\_\_\_ is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- While they rarely admit as much, \_\_\_\_\_ often take for granted that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. Introducing an Ongoing Debate

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_. On the one 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, as I suggested earlier, defenders of \_\_\_\_\_ cannot have it both ways. Their assertion that \_\_\_\_\_ is contradicted by their claim that \_\_\_\_\_.

## V. Capturing Authorial Action

- X acknowledges that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X agrees that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X argues 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## VI. Introducing Quotations

- X states, “\_\_\_\_\_” (citation).
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- X himself writes, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- In her [book/article], \_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- Writing in the journal [*Title*], X complains that “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- In X’s view, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- X agrees when she writes, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- X disagrees when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)
- X complicates matters for the future when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_” (cit)

## VII. Explaining Quotations

- Briefly, X is saying \_\_\_\_\_.
- In other words, X thinks \_\_\_\_\_.
- In making this comment, X argues that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is insisting that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X's point is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The essence of X's argument is that \_\_\_\_\_.

## VIII. 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 shown, \_\_\_\_\_.
- X contradicts herself/cannot 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 do not need him to tell us that. Anyone familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ has long known that \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is just not the case because \_\_\_\_\_.

## IX. 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 is fundamentally \_\_\_\_\_.
- If group X is right that \_\_\_\_\_, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.

## X. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### **XI. Signaling Who Is Saying What**

- X argues \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Politicians \_\_\_\_\_, X argues, should \_\_\_\_\_.
- But \_\_\_\_\_ are real and, arguably, the most significant factor in \_\_\_\_\_.
- But X is wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is, however, simply not true that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Indeed, it is highly likely that \_\_\_\_\_.
- But the view that \_\_\_\_\_ does not fit all the facts.
- X is right that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is both right and wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nevertheless, new research shows \_\_\_\_\_.
- Anyone familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ should see that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **XII. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### **XIII. Entertaining Objections**

- Yet 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 this assertion that \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **XIV. Naming Your Naysayers**

- Here many *Rationalists* would probably object that \_\_\_\_\_.
- But *Pragmatists* would certainly take issue with the argument that \_\_\_\_\_.
- *Biologists*, of course, may want to dispute my claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nevertheless, both followers and critics of 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 is hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **XV. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **XVI. Indicating Who Cares**

- \_\_\_\_\_ used to think \_\_\_\_\_. But recently [or within the past few decades] \_\_\_\_\_ suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
- What this new research does, then, is correct the mistaken impression, held by many earlier researchers, that \_\_\_\_\_.
- These findings 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 Renaissance England, \_\_\_\_\_, assumed in \_\_\_\_\_, her seminal work on the social construction of gender, that women \_\_\_\_\_. As \_\_\_\_\_ herself put it, “\_\_\_\_\_” (page #). Another leading scholar, \_\_\_\_\_, argued that women “\_\_\_\_\_” (page #). Ultimately, when it came to the nature of gender, the basic assumption was that \_\_\_\_\_.

But a new body of research shows that the process of gendering was far more complex and that \_\_\_\_\_.

- If sports enthusiasts stopped to think about it, many of them might simply assume that the most successful athletes \_\_\_\_\_. New research shows, however, that \_\_\_\_\_.
- These findings challenge dieters' common assumptions that \_\_\_\_\_.
- At first glance, teenagers appear to \_\_\_\_\_. But on closer inspection \_\_\_\_\_.

## **XVII. Establishing Why 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 applications 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 \_\_\_\_\_.