

# Template Phrases to Introduce THEIR Ideas

Academic writing is a conversation. Expert writers use signal phrases when introducing ideas from other sources. Here are example templates you can use to introduce someone else's ideas. With more practice, it becomes easier to create your own signal phrases depending on a sentence's purpose.

## Introducing what "they say"

- A number of sociologists have recently suggested that \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to X, \_\_\_\_\_.
- In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing "standard views"

- Americans have always believed that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Common sense seems to dictate that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many people assume that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing something implied or assumed

- One implication of X's treatment of \_\_\_\_\_ is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although none of them have said so, my teachers gave me the impression that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing an ongoing debate

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_. On 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Keeping what "they say" in perspective

- In conclusion, as I suggested earlier, defenders of \_\_\_\_\_ can't have it both ways. Their assertion that \_\_\_\_\_ is contradicted by their claim that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Signaling who is saying what in your own writing

- According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_.
- My view, contrary to what X has argued, is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Adding to X's argument, I would point out that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Making what "they say" something "you say"

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Adapted from Graff, G., Birkenstein, C., & Durst, R. (Eds.). (2018). *They say / I say* (4th ed.). W. W. Norton.

# Template Phrases to Introduce YOUR Ideas

Academic writing is a conversation. We respond to the research and ideas from other authors. The following templates provide strategies for signaling to readers that you're sharing your thoughts about the topic and why it matters. With more practice, it becomes easier to create your own signal phrases depending on a sentence's purpose.

## Agreeing

- I agree that \_\_\_\_\_ because of my experience with \_\_\_\_\_.
- X's theory of \_\_\_\_\_ is useful because it demonstrates the difficult problem of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Disagreeing, with reasons

- X is mistaken because she overlooks \_\_\_\_\_.
- I disagree with X's view that \_\_\_\_\_ because, as recent research has shown, \_\_\_\_\_.
- X's claim that \_\_\_\_\_ rests upon the questionable assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Agreeing and disagreeing simultaneously

- Although I agree with X to a point, I cannot accept his overriding assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Whereas X provides ample evidence of \_\_\_\_\_, Y and Z's research on \_\_\_\_\_ convinces me that \_\_\_\_\_ instead.

## Introducing objections

- Many \_\_\_\_\_ would probably object that \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_, of course, may want to question whether \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nevertheless, both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will suggest otherwise, arguing \_\_\_\_\_.

## Entertaining objections

- Yet some readers may challenge my view by insisting that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Of course, many will disagree on the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Making concessions while standing your ground

- Proponents of X are right to argue that \_\_\_\_\_. However, they exaggerate when they claim \_\_\_\_\_.
- On one hand, I agree with X that \_\_\_\_\_. But on the other hand, I still insist \_\_\_\_\_.

## Establishing why your claim matters

- \_\_\_\_\_ matters/is important because it \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today's concern over \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ultimately, what is at stake here is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Indicating who cares

- \_\_\_\_\_ used to think \_\_\_\_\_. But recently \_\_\_\_\_ suggest that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The interpretation challenges the work of those critics who have long assumed that \_\_\_\_\_.
- If \_\_\_\_\_ stopped to think about it, many of them might simply assume \_\_\_\_\_. However, new researcher shows \_\_\_\_\_.

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