INDEX OF TEMPLATES

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”

- Americans 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 ________.

INTRODUCING SOMETHING IMPLIED OR ASSUMED

- Although none of them has 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 ________.

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 _________ 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 concedes that ________.
- X demonstrates that ________.
- X celebrates the fact that ________.
- X emphasizes that ________.
- X insists that ________.
- X observes that ________.
- X questions that ________.
- X refuses the claim that ________.
- X reminds us that ________.
- X suggests that ________.
- X urges us to ________.
- X deplores the tendency to ________.

INTRODUCING QUOTATIONS

- X states, “__________.”
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “__________.”
- According to X, “__________.”
- X herself writes, “__________.”
- In his book, ________, X maintains 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 shown, ________.
- X contradicts himself. On the one hand, he argues _________. But on the other hand, he 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 known 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 ________.

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 ________.
• But X is wrong that ________.
• However, it is simply not true that ________.
• Indeed, it is highly likely that ________.
• But the view that ________ does not fit all the facts.
• X is right/wrong that ________.
• X is both right and wrong that ________.
• Yet 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

• 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 ________.
NAMING YOUR NAYSAYERS

- Here many feminists would probably object that __________.
- But 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 Malcolm X will probably dispute my claim 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 __________.

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 [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.

ESTABLISHING WHY YOUR CLAIMS MATTER

① X matters/is important because __________.
② Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today’s concern over __________.
② Ultimately, what is at stake here is __________.
② These findings have important consequences for the broader domain of __________.
② My discussion of X is in fact addressing the larger matter of __________.
② These conclusions/This discovery will have significant applications in __________ as well as in __________.
② Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of __________, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about __________.