

THEY SAY, I SAY

SENTENCE TEMPLATES



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THEY SAY

Introducing what “They Say” says:

- A number of psychologists have recently suggested that ____’s work has several fundamental issues.
- It has become common today to dismiss ____.
- In their recent work, ____ and ____ have offered harsh critiques of ____ for ____.

Introducing “Standards Views”:

- Americans have always believed that individuals effort can triumph over circumstances.
- Conventional wisdom has it that ____.
- Common sense seems to dictate that ____.
- The standard way of thinking about the topic ____ has it that ____.
- It is often said that ____.
- My whole life I have heard it said that ____.
- You would think that ____.
- Many people assume that ____.

Making what “They Say” something you say:

- I’ve always believed that ____.
- 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 ____.

Introducing something “Implied or Assumed”

- Although none of them have ever said so directly, my instructors have often given me the impression that ____.
- One implication of ____’s treatment of ____ is that ____.
- Although ____ does not say so directly, he / she apparently assumes that ____.
- While they rarely admit as much, ____ often take for granted that ____.

Introducing an “Ongoing Debate”

- In discussions of ____, 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 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 _____.

Introducing “Quotations”

- ____ states, that “random testing for use of steroids should be banned from sports.”
- As the prominent philosopher ____ puts it, “_____.”
- According to ____, “_____”.
- ____ himself / herself writes, “_____.”
- In ____’s view, “_____.”
- In his / her book, ____, ____ maintains that “_____.”
- Writing in the NAIS journal Sovereignty for Sale?, ____ complains that “_____.”
- ____ agrees when he / she writes, “_____.”
- ____ disagrees when he / she writes, “_____.”
- ____ complicates matter further when he / she writes, “_____.”

Introducing “Explaining Quotations”

- Bascially, ____ is warning that the proposed solution will only make the problem worse.
- In other words, ____ believes _____.
- In making this comment, ____ urges us to _____.
- ____ is corroborating the age-old adage that _____.
- ____’s point is that _____.
- The essence of ____’s argument is that _____.

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I SAY

Disagreeing, with Reasons

- ____ is mistaken because he / she overlooks recent artifacts discoveries in the Southwest.
- ____'s claim that ____ rests upon the questionable assumption that ____.
- I disagree with ____'s view that ____ because, as recent research has shown, ____.
- ____ contradicts his / herself can't have it both ways. On the one hand, he / she argues _____. On the other hand, he / she also say _____.
- By focusing on _____, _____ overlooks the deeper problem of _____.

Agreeing, with Reasons

- I agree that diversity in the student body is educationally valuable because my experience at Diné College confirms it.
- ____ is surely right about ____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____.
- ____'s theory of ____ is extremely useful because it sheds light on the difficult problem of _____.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____.
- I agree that _____, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people still believe _____.
- If group ____ is right that _____, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that _____.

Signaling Who is saying what

- Although ____ makes the best possible case for tribal funded health care, I am not persuaded.
- My views, however, contrary to what ____ has argued, is that _____.
- Adding to ____'s argument, I would point out that _____.
- According to both ____ and _____, ideas on _____.
- Politicians _____, _____ argues, should _____.
- Most athletes will tell you that _____.
- My own view, however, is that _____.
- I agree, as many ____ may not realize, that _____.
- But ____ are real and, arguably, the most significant factor in _____.
- But ____ is wrong that _____.
- However, it is simply not true that _____.
- Indeed, it is highly likely that _____.
- ____'s assertion that ____ does not fit the facts.
- ____ is right that _____.
- ____ is wrong that _____.
- ____ is both right and wrong that _____.
- Yet a sober analysis of the matter reveals _____.
- Nevertheless, new research shows _____.
- Anyone familiar with ____ should agree that _____.
- The evidence shows that _____.

Embedding Voice Markers

- ____ overlooks what I consider an important point about cultural differences.
- My own view is that what ____ insists is a ____ is in fact a _____.
- I wholeheartedly endorse what ____ calls _____.
- These conclusions, which ____ discusses in _____, add weight to the argument that _____.

Entertaining Objections

- At this point, I would like to raise some objections that have been inspired by the skeptic in me. He/ She feels that I have been ignoring _____. "____," he / she says to me, "_____."
- Yet some readers may challenge the view that _____.
- Of course, many will probably disagree with this assertion that _____.

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Introducing Objections Informally

- But is my proposal realistic? What are the chances of its actually being adopted?
- Yet is it always true that ____? It is always the case, as I have been suggesting, that ____?
- However, does the evidence I've cited prove conclusively that ____?
- "Impossible," some will say. "You must be reading the research selectively."

Making Concessions while still standing your ground

- Although I grant that the book is poorly organized, I still maintain that it raises an important issue.
- Proponents of ____, it does not necessarily follow that ____.
- On the one hand, I agree with ____ 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 _____.
- 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 cell biology, ____ assumed in ____, his / her seminal work on cell structures and functions, that fat cells _____. As him/ herself put it, "____"(20XX). Another leading scientist, ____, argued that fat cells "____"(20XX). Ultimately, when it came to the nature of fat, the basic assumptions was that _____. But a new body of research shows that fat cells are far more complex and that _____.
- If sports enthusiasts stopped to think about it, many of them might simply assume that the most successful athletes _____. However, new research shows _____.
- These findings challenge neoliberals' common assumptions that _____.
- At the first glance, teenagers appear to _____. But on closer inspection _____.

Establishing why your claims matter

- ____ matters / is important because _____.
- Although ____ 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 ____ is in fact addressing the larger matter of _____.
- These conclusions / This discovery will have significant applications in ____ as well as in _____.

Adding Metacommentary

- In other words, _____.
- What ____ really means by this is _____.
- Ultimately, my goal is to demonstrate that _____.
- My point is not ____, but _____.
- To put in another way, _____.
- In sum, then, _____.
- My conclusion, then, is that, _____.
- In short, _____.
- What is more important, _____.
- Incidentally, _____.
- By the way, _____.
- Chapter 2 explores ____, while Chapter 3 examines _____.
- Having just argued that ____, let us now turn our attention to _____.
- Although some readers may object that ____, I would answer that _____.

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Entering an argumentative conversation

- Many Native American assume that _____.
- On the one hand, _____. On the other hand, _____.
- Author X contradicts himself / herself. As the same time that he / she argues _____, also he / she implies _____.
- I agree that _____.
- This is not to say _____.

Way of responding to argumentative conversation

- He / She argues _____, and I agree because _____.
- His / Her argument that _____ is supported by new research showing that _____.
- He / She claims that _____, and I have mixed feelings about it. On the one hand, I agree that _____. On the other hand, I still insist that _____.

Agreeing, Disagreeing and Mixed Feeling Simultaneously

- Although I agree with _____ up to a point, I cannot accept his overriding assumptions that _____.
- Although I disagree with must that _____ says, I fully endorse his / her final conclusion that _____.
- Though I concede that _____, I still insist that _____.
_____ is right that _____, but he / she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that _____.
- While _____ is probably wrong when she claims that _____, she is right that _____.
- Whereas _____ provides ample evidence that _____, and _____'s research on _____ and _____ convinces me that _____ instead.
- I'm of two minds about _____'s claim that _____. On the one hand, I agree that _____. On the other hand, I'm not sure if _____.
- My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support _____'s position that _____, but I find _____'s argument about _____ and _____'s research on _____ to be equally persuasive.

Essay example using templates

In recent discussion of _____, a controversial issue has been whether _____. On the one hand, some argue that _____. From this perspective, _____. On the other hand, however, other argue that _____. In the words of _____, one of this view's main proponents, "_____." According to this view, _____. In sum, then, the issue is whether _____ or _____. My own views is that _____. Though I concede that _____, I still maintain that _____. For example, _____. Although some might object that _____, I would reply that _____. The issue is important because _____.

Using as a essay example

In the introduction to "Diné a History of the Navajos", Peter Iverson (2002), provides insights to _____. Specifically, Iverson argues _____. As the author himself put it, "_____." Although some people believe _____, Iverson insist that _____. In sum, then, their view is that _____.

I [agree, disagree, have mixed feelings] on the matter of _____. In my view, the types of _____ that the author recommend _____. For instance, _____. In addition, _____. Some might object, of course, on the grounds that _____. Yet I would argue that _____. Overall, then, I believe _____ -an important point to make given _____.

Capturing Authorial action

- | | |
|--|---|
| • _____ acknowledges that _____. | • _____ demonstrates that _____. |
| • _____ agrees that _____. | • _____ deplores the tendency to _____. |
| • _____ argues that _____. | • _____ celebrates the fact that _____. |
| • _____ believes that _____. | • _____ insists that _____. |
| • _____ denies / does not deny that _____. | • _____ questions whether _____. |
| • _____ claims that _____. | • _____ reminds us that _____. |
| • _____ complains that _____. | • _____ reports that _____. |
| • _____ concedes that _____. | • _____ suggests that _____. |

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Literature Writing

Starting with what others say - A literary work

- Critic ____ complains that Author ____'s story is compromised by his /her _____. While there's some truth to this critique, I argue that Critic ____ overlooks _____.
- According to Critic _____, novel _____ suggests _____. I agree, but would add that _____.
- Several members of our class have suggested that the final message of play _____ is _____. I agree up to a point, but I still think that _____.
- On first reading play _____, I thought it was an uncritical celebration of _____. After rereading the play and discussing it in class, however I see that it is more critical of _____ than I originally thought.
- Though religious readers might be tempted to analyze poem _____ as a parable about _____, a closer examination suggests that the poem is in fact about _____.
- It might be said that poem _____ is chiefly about _____. But the problem with this reading, in my view, is _____.
- Ultimately, as I read it, _____ seems to say _____. I have trouble accepting the proposition, however, on the grounds that _____.
- At the beginning of the poem, we encounter the generalization, seemingly introduction the poem's message, that "_____." But this statement is then contradicted by the suggestion made later in the poem that "_____." This opens up a significant inconsistency in the text: is it suggesting _____ or, on the contrary, _____?
- At several places in novel, _____, author _____ leads us to understand that the story's central point is that _____. Yet elsewhere the text suggests _____, indicating that _____ may be ambivalent on this issue.

Responding to Other Interpretations of a Literary Work

- It might be argued that in the clash between character _____ and _____ in the play _____, the author wants us to favor the character _____, since he / she is presented as the play's heroine. I contend, however, that _____.
- Several critics seem to assume that poem _____ endorses the values of _____ represented by the image of _____ over those of _____ represented by the image of _____. I agree, but with the following caveat: _____.

Showing Evidence when writing about a Literary Work

- Although some might read the metaphor of _____ in this poem as evidence that, for Author _____, I see that as _____.
- Some might claim that evidence _____ suggests _____, but I argue that, on the contrary, it suggests _____.
- I agree with my classmate _____ that the image of _____ in novel _____ is evidence of _____. Unlike _____, however, I think _____.

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Science Writing

Explain what the data mean

- Our data support / confirm / verify the work of ____ by showing that ____.
- By demonstrating ____, ____'s work extends the findings of ____.
- The results of ____ contradicts / refute ____'s conclusions that ____.
- ____'s findings call into question the widely accepted theory that ____.
- Our data are consistent with ____'s hypothesis that ____.
- The data suggest / hint / imply ____.

Present the prevailing theories

- Experiments showing ____ and ____ have led scientists to propose ____.
- Although most scientists attribute ____ to ____, ____'s result ____ leads to the possibility that ____.

Explain the methods

- ____ and colleagues evaluated ____ to determine whether ____.
- Because ____ does not account for ____, we instead used ____.

Explaining an experimental result

- One explanation for ____'s finding of ____ is that _____. An alternative explanation is ____.
- The difference between ____ and ____ is probably due to ____.

Summarize the findings

- We measured ____ (sample size) subjects, and the average response was ____ (mean with units) with a range of ____ (lower value) to ____ (higher value).
- Before training, average running speed was ____ \pm ____ kilometers per hour, ____ kilometers per hour slower than running speed after training.
- We found athletes' heart rates to be ____ \pm ____ % lower than nonathletes'.
- The subjects in ____'s study completed the maze in ____ \pm ____ seconds, ____ seconds slower than those in ____'s study.

Introducing gaps in the existing research

- Studies of ____ have indicated _____. It is not clear, however, that this conclusion applies to ____.
- ____ often take for granted that _____. Few have investigated this assumption, however.
- ____'s work tells us a great deal about _____. Can this work be generalized to ____?

Agree, but with a difference

- Now that ____ has been established, scientists will likely turn their attention toward ____.
- ____'s work leads to the question of _____. Therefore, we investigated ____.
- To see whether these findings apply to ____, we propose to ____.

Disagree - and explain why

- The work of ____ appears to show that ____, but their experimental design does not control for ____.
- While ____ claim that ____, their finding of ____ actually shows that ____.

Boundaries or limitations of a study

- While ____'s work clearly demonstrates ____, will be required before we can determine whether ____.
- Although ____ and ____ present firm evidence for ____, their data can not be used to argue that ____.
- In summary, our studies show that ____, but the issue of ____ remains unresolved.

Anticipating Objections

- Scientists who take a ____ (reductionist / integrative / biochemical / computational / statistical) approach might view our results differently.

Say why it matters

- These results open the door to studies that ____.
- The methodologies developed by ____ will be useful for ____.
- Our findings are the first step toward ____.
- Further work in this area may lead to the development of ____.

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Social Science Writing

Introducing a thesis : “This paper challenges”

- Native Americans research in the last fifteen years suggested that ____’s framework was _____. In other words, they say that ____’s work is not accurate because of _____, _____, and _____. Recent research convinces me, however, that ____’s work make sense.

Identifying two competing narratives

- In recent discussions of _____, a controversial aspect has been _____. On the one hand, others argue that _____. On the other hand, others argue that _____. Neither of these arguments, however, considers the alternative view that _____.

Agreeing and Disagreeing

- Although I agree with _____ up to a point, I cannot accept his / her overall conclusion that _____.
- Although I disagree with _____’s on _____ and _____ I agree with his / her conclusion that _____.
- Political scientists studying _____ have argued that it is caused by _____. While _____ contributes to the problem, _____ is also an important factor.

Introducing gaps in the existing research

- Studies of _____ have indicated _____. It is not clear, however, that this conclusion applies to _____.
- _____ often take for granted that _____. Few have investigated this assumption, however.
- _____’s work tells us a great deal about _____. Can this work be generalized to _____?

Overview Summaries

- In addressing the question of _____, political scientists have considered several explanations for _____. _____ argues that _____. According to _____ and _____, another plausible explanation is _____.
- What is the effect of _____ on _____? Previous work on _____ by _____ and by _____ and _____ supports _____.

Discussing Data

- In order to test the hypothesis that _____, we assessed _____. Our calculations suggest _____.
- I used _____ to investigate _____. The results of this investigation indicate _____.

Considering naysayers

- _____ might object that _____.
- Is my claim realistic? I have argued _____ but does not explain _____. This is because _____.

Establishing why your claims matter

- _____ is important because _____.
- Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.
- The findings that _____ should be of interest to _____ because _____.