Discussing Evidence Using *They Say, I Say*

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