



# They Say/I Say

Persuasive Moves in Argumentative Writing

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 2nd ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010. Print.

## Templates for Introducing What “They Say”

- A number of \_\_\_\_\_ have recently suggested that \_\_\_\_\_.
- It has become common today to dismiss \_\_\_\_\_.
- In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Templates for Introducing “Standard Views”

- Americans have always believed that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Conventional wisdom has it that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Common sense seems to dictate that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The standard way of thinking about \_\_\_\_\_ has it that \_\_\_\_\_.

# Templates for Introducing “Standard Views,” cont.

- 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, \_\_\_\_\_ have often given me the impression that \_\_\_\_\_.
- One implication of \_\_\_\_\_'s treatment of \_\_\_\_\_ is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

# Introducing an Ongoing Debate, cont.

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