## **They Say, I Say templates to use in your writing**

## **Introducing Standard Views - this can be your very first sentence**

* American today 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 an Ongoing Debate - this should go right before your thesis**

* In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_. On the other 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, defenders of \_\_\_\_\_ can’t have it both ways. Their assertion that \_\_\_\_\_ is contradicted by their claim that \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Introducing Quotations - use right before your quote**

* X states, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X himself writes, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* In her book, \_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* Writing in the journal *Commentary*, X complains that “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* In X’s view, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X agrees/disagrees when she writes, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X complicates matters further when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_.”

## **Explaining Quotations - use right after your quote**

* 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Making Concessions while Still Standing Your Ground - this could start your rebuttal to the counterclaim**

* 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Establishing Why Your Claims Matter - this could be the very last point your make in your conclusion**

* Although X 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 X is in fact addressing the larger matter of \_\_\_\_\_
* These conclusions / This discovery will have significant application in \_\_\_\_ as well as in \_\_\_\_
* Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of \_\_\_\_, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about \_\_\_\_\_