**SENTENCE TEMPLATES FOR ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING**

**EVIDENCE**

Signaling Who Is Saying What

* X argues \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X argues.
* Most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will tell you that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X is right that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X’s assertion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in line with my evidence.

Capturing Authorial Action

* X acknowledges that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X agrees that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X argues that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X believes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X denies 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 refutes the claim that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X reminds us that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X reports that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X urges us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Introducing Quotations

* X states, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* According to X, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X writes, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* In her (book/article/essay) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .”
* Writing in the journal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X complains that “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* In X’s view, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X agrees when she writes, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X disagrees when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* X complicates matters further when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

**REASONING / JUSTIFYING EVIDENCE**

Explaining Quotations

* In other words, X belives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In making this comment, X urges us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X is merely corroborating the age-old adage that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X’s point is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The essance of X’s claim is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Agreeing—With a Difference

* If group X is right that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X’s theory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X is surely right about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Indicating Who Cares

* 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.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ used to think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But recently, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Commenting on Multiple Sources of Data

* Our data (support/confirm/verify) the work of X by showing that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* By demonstrating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X’s work extends the findings of Y.
* The results of X contradict Y’s conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X’s findings call into quesiton Y’s conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X’s findings call into question the widely accepted theory that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Our data are consistant with X’s hypothesis that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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.
* X’s work tells us a great deal about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Can this work be generalized to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Explaining an Experimental Result

* One explanation for X’s findings of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. An alternative explanation is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The difference between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is probably due to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**INTRODUCING COUNTERCLAIMS**

Introducing “What they say.”

* A number of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have recently suggested that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It has become common recently to dismiss \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In their recent work, X and Y have offered harsh critques of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Introducing “Standard Views”

* Conventional wisdom has it that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Common sense seems to dictate that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The standard way of thinking about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has it that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It is often said that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* One 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 believe that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Although I should know better by now, I cannot help thinking that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Introducing Something Implied or Assumed

* Although none of them have ever said so directly, my teachers have often given me the impression that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* One implication of X’s ideas is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Entertaining Counterclaims

* Followers of X will probably argue that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Critics of X will probably argue that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Those who believe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will probably argue that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Nevertheless, both followers and critics of X will probably argue that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Yet some readers may challenge the view that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Of course, many will probably disagree with this assertion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Here many feministswould probably object that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* But social Darwinists would certainly take issue with the argument that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Biologists, of course, may want to question whether \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* 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 of them are likely object on the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**DEFEATING COUNTERCLAIMS**

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 herself. On the one hand, she argues \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, she also says \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* By focusing on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X overlooks the deeper problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* However, it is simply not true, as X says, that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* But X is wrong that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously

* Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Though I concede that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I still insist that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Whereas X provides ample evidence that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Y and Z’s research on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ convinces me that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead.
* X is right that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* While X is probably wrong when she claims that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she is right 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support X’s position that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but I find Y’s argument about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Z’s research on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be equally persuasive.

Making Concessions To Counterclaim While Still Standing your Ground

* Although I grant that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I still maintain that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Proponents of X are right to argue that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But they exagerrate 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**CONCLUDING**

Establishing Why Your Claims Matter

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

**COMMONLY USED TRANSITION WORDS**

**Cause and Effect**

accordingly

as a result

consequently

it follows, then, that

since

so

then

therefore

thus

**Comparison**

along the same lines

in the same way

likewise

similarly

at the same time

just like

just as

**Contrast**

although

but

by contrast

conversely

despite

even though

nevertheless

nonetheless

on the contrary

on the other hand

regardless

whereas

however

in contrast

while

yet

**Addition**

also

and

besides

furthermore

in addition

in fact

indeed

moreover

so too

**Concession**

admittedly

although it is true that

granted

I concede that

of course

naturally

to be sure

**Example**

after all

as an illustration

consider

for example

for instance

specifically

to take a case in which

**Elaboration**

actually

by extension

that is

in other words

to put it another way

to put it bluntly

to put it succinctly