

# Sentence Templates

Our words are very important, especially when it comes to creating strong, thoughtful papers. Many times, the format is foreign, and assistance is needed to take that next step with sentence structure. These suggestions are here for just that: to suggest. Please note there are hundreds of other ways for writers to say what they want. Also, please make sure the sentence flows after using these. If it does not flow, tweak the sentence until it works.

## Introducing what “they” say

- Negative
  - A number of sociologists have recently suggested that X’s work has several fundamental problems.
  - It has become common today to dismiss X’s contribution to the field of sociology.
  - In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of X for\_\_\_\_\_.
- Positive
  - In many circles, X has been heralded by the leaders of this industry for his or her ideas on\_\_\_\_\_.
  - Y and Z offer high praise in their most recent work for X’s thoughts on\_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing the “standard view”

- Americans 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/thought/believed that\_\_\_\_\_.
- Many people assumed that\_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing something implied or assumed

- Although none of them have ever said so directly, teachers often give the impression that\_\_\_\_\_.
- One implication of X’s treatment of \_\_\_\_\_ is that\_\_\_\_\_.
- Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that\_\_\_\_\_.
- While he rarely admits as much, Y often takes for granted that\_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing an ongoing debate

- In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been\_\_\_\_\_. On the one hand,\_\_\_\_\_ argues \_\_\_\_\_, while on the other hand,\_\_\_\_\_ presents that\_\_\_\_\_. Others even maintain\_\_\_\_\_.
- When it comes to the topic of\_\_\_\_\_, most would readily agree that\_\_\_\_\_. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of\_\_\_\_\_. Where some are convinced that\_\_\_\_\_, others maintain that\_\_\_\_\_.
- As suggested previously, defenders of\_\_\_\_\_ cannot have it both ways. Their assertion that\_\_\_\_\_ is contradicted by their claim that\_\_\_\_\_.

## Introducing quotations

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_, X complains that “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- In X’s view, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- X agrees when she writes, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- X disagrees when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- X complicates matters further when he writes, “\_\_\_\_\_.”

## Explaining quotations

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

## Disagreeing, with reasons

- X is mistaken because she overlooks \_\_\_\_\_.
- X’s claim that \_\_\_\_\_ rests upon the questionable assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X contradicts herself/cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues \_\_\_\_\_. However, on the other hand, she also presents \_\_\_\_\_.
- By focusing on \_\_\_\_\_, X overlooks the deeper problem of \_\_\_\_\_.
- X claims \_\_\_\_\_, but this claim is unnecessary. Anyone familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ has long known that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Agreeing—with a difference

- X is surely right about \_\_\_\_\_ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X’s theory of \_\_\_\_\_ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe \_\_\_\_\_.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that, in simplest terms, it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- If group X is right that \_\_\_\_\_, then the popular assumption of \_\_\_\_\_ needs to be reassessed.

## Agreeing and disagreeing simultaneously

- Although X’s argument is agreeable to a point, his overall conclusion of \_\_\_\_\_ is unacceptable.
- While X says many things that can be disproved, his final conclusion of \_\_\_\_\_ can be supported.
- Though it can be conceded that \_\_\_\_\_, it must be insisted that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Whereas X provides ample evidence that \_\_\_\_\_, Y and Z's research on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ points to the conclusion \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_, her claim that \_\_\_\_\_ seems to be sound.

## Signal phrases

- X argues \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Most athletes will say that \_\_\_\_\_.
- But \_\_\_\_\_ is real and, arguably, the most significant factor in \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is wrong in that \_\_\_\_\_.
- However, it is simply not true that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Indeed, it is highly likely that \_\_\_\_\_.
- The view that \_\_\_\_\_ does not fit all the facts \_\_\_\_\_.
- X is right/wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A sober analysis of the matter reveals \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nevertheless, new research shows \_\_\_\_\_.
- Anyone familiar with \_\_\_\_\_ should see that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Embedding voice markers

- X overlooks what is considered an important point about \_\_\_\_\_.
- These conclusions, which X discusses in \_\_\_\_\_, add weight to the argument that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Entertaining objections

- Yet, some individuals may challenge the view that \_\_\_\_\_. After all, many believe \_\_\_\_\_. A sound argument for \_\_\_\_\_ must not ignore \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Of course, many would probably disagree with this assertion on the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Naming your naysayers

- Here, many feminists would probably object that \_\_\_\_\_.
- However, social Darwinists would certainly take issues with the argument that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Biologists, of course, may want to dispute the claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nevertheless, both followers and critics of Malcolm X will probably argue that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although not all Christians think alike, many would probably dispute the claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Non-native English speakers are so diverse in their views that it is hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Making concessions while still standing your ground

- Proponents of X are right to argue that \_\_\_\_\_. However, they exaggerate when they claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
- While it is true that \_\_\_\_\_, it does not necessarily follow that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Indicating who cares

- \_\_\_\_\_ used to think \_\_\_\_\_. Recently/within the past few decades, \_\_\_\_\_ suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
- What this new research does, then, is correct the mistaken impression held by many researchers that \_\_\_\_\_.
- These findings challenge the work of earlier researchers, who assumed 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, \_\_\_\_\_, assumes in \_\_\_\_\_, her seminal work on cell structures and functions, that fat cells \_\_\_\_\_. As \_\_\_\_\_, herself, puts it, “\_” (citation). Another leading scientist, \_\_\_\_\_, argues that fat cells “\_\_\_\_\_” (citation). Ultimately, in previous years, when it came down to the nature of fat, the basic assumption was that \_\_\_\_\_. Recently, 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 dieters’ common assumptions that \_\_\_\_\_.
- At first glance, teenagers appear to \_\_\_\_\_. On closer inspection, they \_\_\_\_\_.

## Establishing why your claims matter

- X matters/is important because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 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 scope of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The discussion of X is, in fact, addressing the larger issue of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although X may seem to be a concern to only a small group of \_\_\_\_\_, it should concern anyone who cares about \_\_\_\_\_.

## Adding meta-commentary

- In other words, \_\_\_\_\_.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ really means by this is \_\_\_\_\_.
- To put it another way, \_\_\_\_\_.
- In short, \_\_\_\_\_.
- For example, \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is not to say \_\_\_\_\_, but rather \_\_\_\_\_.
- Incidentally, \_\_\_\_\_.

Source:

Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *“They Say, I Say”: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. W.W. Norton, 2014.