

Templates from "They Say, I Say" - How to respond.

When talking about what others have said (for example the [book review](#) by Coates) there are a number of ways one might want to respond. Always tell the reader your overall approach first, so she knows how to interpret the subtleties of your argument. This material comes from chapter 4 of "They Say, I Say" . [51](#),[52](#),[54](#),[56](#), [58](#),[60](#),[62](#).

Three Ways to Respond

TEMPLATES FOR 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/can't have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues _____. But on the other hand, she also says _____ .
- By focusing on _____ , X overlooks the deeper problem of _____ .
- X claims _____ , but we don't need him to tell us that. Anyone familiar with _____ has long known that _____ .

TEMPLATES FOR AGREEING

- I agree that _____ because my experience _____ confirms it.
- 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 _____.
- I agree that _____ , a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe _____.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____ .

TEMPLATES FOR BOTH AGREEING AND DISAGREEING

- Stressing disagreement - NO, BUT ...
 1. Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall research that _____ .
- Stressing Agreement - YES, BUT ...
 1. Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____ .
 2. Though I concede that _____, I still insist that _____ .
 3. X is right that _____, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that _____ .
 4. While X is probably wrong when she claims that _____, she is right that _____ .
 5. Whereas X provides ample evidence that _____, Y and Z's research on _____ and _____ convinces me that _____ instead
- Mixed Feelings - IM OF TWO MINDS ...
 1. 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 _____.
 2. 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.

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