

## Templates for Integrating Research into Your Writing

Writing about your research is like conducting a conversation among your own ideas and those of others. In our [video tutorial on research writing](#) and our [handout on integrating sources](#) into your writing, we explain the purpose and value of using signal phrases and commentary. In this handout, we provide templates and suggested vocabulary for different ways you might frame and unpack others' ideas in your writing. For more on this subject, including many more templates, see *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein.

Let's start with signal phrases: ways to frame others' ideas and information that you're quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing in your essay.

### Neutral

X argues \_\_\_\_\_.

According to both X and Y, \_\_\_\_\_.

Architects, X argues, should \_\_\_\_\_.

In their recent work, Y and Z have offered critiques of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

### Suggesting agreement

In the same way, X suggests \_\_\_\_\_.

I wholeheartedly endorse what X calls \_\_\_\_\_.

X gives a helpful explanation of this, saying \_\_\_\_\_.

### Suggesting disagreement

Contrary to this concept, X argues that \_\_\_\_\_.

I disagree with X's argument that \_\_\_\_\_.

X harshly critiques this notion, saying \_\_\_\_\_.

### Suggesting both agreement and disagreement

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 endorse his final conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### Comparing or transitioning between others' ideas

By Demonstrating \_\_\_\_\_, X's work [extends] the findings of Y.

X's findings [call into questions] the widely accepted theory that \_\_\_\_\_.

The results of X contradict/refute Y's conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_.

Whereas X provides ample evidence that \_\_\_\_\_, Y and Z's research on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ convinces me that \_\_\_\_\_ instead.

X's theory of \_\_\_\_\_ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of \_\_\_\_\_.

If group X is right that \_\_\_\_\_, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that \_\_\_\_\_.

Here are some ways to provide your own commentary: following any quoted, paraphrased, or summarized ideas/information with your own explanation, analysis, and/or relating it to your own ideas.

### **Explaining an idea**

In other words, \_\_\_\_\_.  
In short, \_\_\_\_\_.  
What X means here is \_\_\_\_\_.  
What X is saying \_\_\_\_\_.  
What \_\_\_\_\_ really means is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Agreeing**

I agree, as X may not realize, that \_\_\_\_\_.  
Indeed, it is highly likely that \_\_\_\_\_.  
X is right that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Disagreeing**

My own view, however, is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
But X is wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.  
X is wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.  
However, it is simply not true that \_\_\_\_\_.  
X's assertion that \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't fit the facts.  
X overlooks what I consider an important point about \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Both agreeing and disagreeing**

X is both right and wrong that \_\_\_\_\_.  
At the same time that I believe \_\_\_\_\_, I also believe \_\_\_\_\_.  
Though I concede that \_\_\_\_\_, I still insist that \_\_\_\_\_.  
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.

### **Connecting to your own argument/ideas**

My conclusion, then, is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
What is more important, \_\_\_\_\_.  
These conclusions, which X discusses in \_\_\_\_\_, add weight to the argument that \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ultimately, my goal is to demonstrate that \_\_\_\_\_.  
My point is not \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.  
Having just argued that \_\_\_\_\_, let us now turn our attention to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Although some readers may object that \_\_\_\_\_, I would answer that \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Establishing why your claim matters**

X matters/is important because \_\_\_\_\_.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_.  
Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of \_\_\_\_\_, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about \_\_\_\_\_.

At some points in an essay, it may be appropriate to acknowledge another perspective. This is especially powerful if you can then argue against that opposition. Here is some suggested language for both.

**Entertaining objections**

Yet some readers may challenge the view that \_\_\_\_\_.  
Of course, many will probably disagree with this assertion that \_\_\_\_\_.  
Here, many [photographers] would probably object that \_\_\_\_\_.  
[Biologists], of course, may want to question whether \_\_\_\_\_.  
Yet, is it always true that \_\_\_\_\_? Is it always the case, as I have been suggesting, that \_\_\_\_\_?  
However, does the evidence I've cited prove conclusively that \_\_\_\_\_?

**Making concessions while still standing your ground**

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, here's some more vocabulary commonly used to transition between ideas. This may help you develop your own style of signal phrases and commentary as you develop your research writing voice.

**Cause and Effect**

accordingly  
 as a result  
 consequently  
 hence  
 it follows, then  
 since  
 so  
 then  
 therefore  
 thus

**Contrast**

although  
 but  
 by contrast  
 conversely  
 despite  
 even though  
 nevertheless  
 nonetheless  
 on the contrary  
 on the other hand  
 regardless  
 whereas  
 however  
 while  
 yet

**Conclusion**

as a result  
 consequently  
 hence  
 in conclusion, then  
 in short  
 in sum, then  
 it follows, then  
 so  
 that  
 therefore  
 thus

**Comparison**

along the same lines  
 in the same way  
 likewise  
 similarly

**Addition**

also  
 and  
 besides  
 furthermore  
 in addition  
 in fact

**Concession**

admittedly  
 although it is true that  
 granted  
 I concede that  
 of course  
 naturally  
 to be sure

**Example**

after all  
 consider  
 for example  
 for instance  
 specifically

**Elaboration**

actually  
 by extension  
 that is  
 in other words  
 to put it another way  
 ultimately