**From “They Say” to “I Say”**

Please spend 10 minutes choosing one template from each of the three categories and filling out the blanks based on what you *might* want to argue in your essay.

Templates for Disagreement

While disagreeing might seem to be one of the simpler moves a writer can make, you need to do more than simply assert that you disagree with a particular perspective; you also have to offer persuasive reasons for *why* you disagree.

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, she also says \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

By focusing on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X overlooks the deeper problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Templates for Agreement

Agreeing is also less simple than it may appear. You need to do more than simply echo view you agree with. Even if you’re agreeing, it’s important to bring something new and fresh to the table, adding something that makes you a valuable participant in the conversation.

I agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because my experience with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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 light on the difficult problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people still believe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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

Okay, But…

Simultaneous agreement and disagreement can demonstrate both complexity and subtlety, showing how some aspects of a project are useful for backing your claims while others create opportunities to differentiate yourself. This is also an opportunity to show how your conversation texts relate to one another (where are the agreements and disagreements between them?).

Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overriding assumption that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Though I concede that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I still insist 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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

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.