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 ________.

Agreeing—With a Difference

- X surely is right about ________ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies had shown that ________.
- C’s theory of ________ is extremely useful because it sheds life on the difficult problem of ________.
- I agree that ________, a point that needs emphasizing sine so many people believe ________.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to ________.
- If group X is right that ________, as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption 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 that ________ and ________ convinces me that ________ instead.
- X is right that ________, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that ________.
- I’m of two minds about X’s claim that _________. On the one hand, I agree that ________. On the other hand, I am not sure if ________.
- My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support C’s position that ________, but I find Y’s argument about ________ and Z’s research on ________ to be equally persuasive.

Making a Concession While Standing Your Ground

- Although I grant that ________, I still maintain that ________.
- Proponents of X are right 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 ________.

Adapted from They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkstein (2006).