

**Swarthmore College Writing Center**

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**Introducing what “They Say”**

* 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 Dr. X for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Introducing something implied or assumed**

* Although none of them have ever said so directly, my teachers have often given me the impression that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* One implication of X’s treatment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* While they rarely admit as much, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ often take for granted that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Introducing an ongoing debate**

* In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_\_. On the one hand, \_\_\_\_\_\_ argues \_\_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_\_ contends \_\_\_\_\_\_. Others even maintain \_\_\_\_\_\_. My own view is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* When it comes to the topic of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, most of us will readily agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Whereas some are convinced that \_\_\_\_\_, others maintain that \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In conclusion, then, as I suggested earlier, defenders of \_\_\_\_\_\_ can’t have it both ways. Their assertion that \_\_\_\_\_\_ is contradicted by their claim that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Capturing authorial action**

* X acknowledges that \_\_\_\_\_\_.  X reports that \_\_\_\_\_.
* X agrees that \_\_\_\_\_. X suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
* X argues that \_\_\_\_\_.  X urges us to \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X believes that \_\_\_\_\_.  X observes that \_\_\_\_\_.
* X denies/does not deny that \_\_\_\_\_.  X reminds us that \_\_\_\_\_.
* X complains that \_\_\_\_\_.  X refutes the claim that \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X claims that \_\_\_\_\_.  X questions whether \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X concedes that \_\_\_\_\_\_.  X insists that \_\_\_\_\_.
* X demonstrates that \_\_\_\_\_\_.  X emphasizes that \_\_\_\_\_.
* X deplores the tendency to \_\_\_\_\_\_.  X celebrates the fact that \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**“They Say”: how to introduce the arguments of others**