



# “THEY SAY”: HOW TO INTRODUCE THE ARGUMENTS OF OTHERS

Swarthmore College Writing Center  
writing.swarthmore.edu  
610.328.8659

---

## 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 deplors the tendency to _____.   | • X celebrates the fact that _____. |