Templates for Introducing and Summarizing a Topic/Debate

From Chapter 1 of *They Say, I Say*

by Graff and Birkenstein

**Introducing "Standard Views"**

* Conventional wisdom has it that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Common sense seems to dictate that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The standard way of thinking about topic X has it that\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It is often said that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Opening with a Debate**

* In discussion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one controversial issue has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. On one hand, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ argues that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_contends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Others even maintain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My own view is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* When it comes to the topic of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, most of us will agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Whereas some are convinced that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, others maintain that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Introducing Summaries/Quotations**

* She advocates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* They celebrate the fact that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he admits.

**Verbs for Introducing Summaries/Quotations**

*Making a Claim*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| argue | insist | assert | observe | believe |
| remind us  | claim | report | emphasize | Suggest |

*Expressing Agreement*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| acknowledge | endorse | admire |
| agree | extol | praise |
| celebrate the fact that | reaffirm | corroborate |
| do not deny  | support | verify |

*Disagreeing or Questioning*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| renounce | qualify | complicate | question |
| deny | refute | contradict | reject |

*Making Recommendations*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| advocate | call for | demand | recommend |  |
| encourage | urge | exhort | warn |  |

**Introducing Quotations**

* X states, "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* As the prominent philosopher X puts it, "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* According to X, "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* In her book, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, X maintains that "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* In X's view, "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* X agrees/disagrees when she writes, "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* X complicates matters further when she writes "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

**Explaining Quotations**

* Basically, X is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In other words, X believes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In making this comment, X urges us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* X's point is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The essence of X's argument is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.