**Having a Conversation with Sources**

**from *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing***

**by Graff and Birkenstein**

The model sentences below will help you develop the art of conversation with your source material, so your voice and thinking dominates your paper.

**I. Introducing What “They Say”**

\* A number of presidential hopefuls have recently suggested that X’s work on poverty 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Introducing Standard Views**

\* Americans today tend to believe that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* Conventional wisdom has it that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* Common sense seems to dictate that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* The standard way of thinking about topic X is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* It is often said that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**III. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**IV. Capturing Authorial Intent**

Argues Acknowledges Believes Denies/does not deny Claims Complains Concedes Demonstrates Deplores Celebrates Emphasizes Insists Observes Questions Refutes Reminds Reports Suggests Urges

\* X agrees that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**V. Disagreeing, With Reasons**

\* X is mistaken because she overlooks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* X’s claim that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rests on the questionable assumption that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**VI. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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

\* It is right that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but she seems on dubious ground when she claims that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* While X is probably wrong when she claims that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she is right that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**VII. Making Concessions While Still Standing Your Ground**

\* Although I grant that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I still maintain that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\* Proponents of X are right to argue 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**VIII. 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 agree that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Where the 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.