

Signal Phrases for Summarizing, Paraphrasing, & Quotations

Based on templates: *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*

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1. Capturing Authorial Action/ For Summaries or Paraphrasing:

These target phrases alert the reader that the author is about to summarize or paraphrase another idea established by an authority on a chosen topic.

- X acknowledges that _____
- X agrees that _____.
- X argues that _____.
- X believes that _____.
- X denies/ does not deny that _____.
- X claims that _____.
- X complains that _____.
- X concedes that _____.
- X demonstrates that _____.
- X celebrates the fact that _____.
- X emphasizes that _____.
- X insists that _____.
- X observes that _____.
- X questions whether _____.
- X refuses to claim that _____.
- X reminds us that _____.
- X reports that _____.
- X suggests that _____.
- X urges us to _____.

2. Introducing Quotations:

These target phrases alert the reader that the author is about to quote directly from another source. The writer is preparing the reader for the proper parenthetical citation.

- X states, “_____.”
- In her book, _____, X maintains that “_____.”
- Writing in the journal *XxYyZz*, X complains that “_____.”
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “_____.”
- According to X, “_____.”
- X himself writes, “_____.”
- In X’s view, “_____.”
- X agrees when she writes, “_____.”
- X disagrees when he writes, “_____.”
- X complicates matters further when he writes, “_____.”

3. Explaining Quotations:

Every paragraph must show clarification, interpretation, or necessary analysis of a supplied quotation or paraphrase. This offers the research author to have the final word in a paragraph.

- Basically, X is saying _____.
- In other words, X believes _____.
- In making this comment, X argues that _____.
- X’s view confirms/reaffirms/clarifies the view that _____.
- X is insisting that _____.
- X’s point is that _____.
- The essence of X’s argument is that _____.

4. Introducing Statistics or “Standard Views”:

The following target phrases alert the reader that the research writer is about to use numerical data or popular opinions. (Remember, numerical data is cited, conventional ideas are not.)

- 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 has it that _____.
- It is often said that _____.
- Many people assumed that _____.
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- A recent study shows _____.
- Scientists recently noted that _____.
- Doctors at the XxYyZz Institute claim that _____.
- In the 2010 census it was shown that _____.

5. Introducing Contrasting Arguments:

Frequently research writers find conflicting reports. Inclusion of these debates can add strength to their own works. Analysis of other opinions likewise needs target phrases. When using multiple viewpoints, it is crucial that the reader understands the different opinions.

- 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 _____.

- X argues _____.
- According to both X and Y, _____.
- Politicians _____, X argues, should _____.

6. Expressing Authorial Opinions:

The individual research writer may have opinions regarding the collected information shown in the report. Since personal voice is not allowed, the following target phrases tell the reader the commentary expressed is the research author and not a secondary source. Likewise, these statements help conclude the paragraph and allow the research writer to have the last word on the chose topic.

- But _____ are real and, arguably, the most significant factor in _____.
- But X is wrong that _____.
- However, it is simply not true that _____.
- Indeed, it is highly likely that _____.
- But the view that _____ does not fit all the facts.
- X is right that _____.
- X is wrong that _____.
- X is both right and wrong that _____.
- Yet a sober analysis of the matter reveals _____.
- Nevertheless, new research shows _____.
- Anyone familiar with _____ should see 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 _____.