

Sentence Starters for Keeping Sources in Conversation with Each Other

Templates for sentences used in the introduction:

- In discussions of [topic], one controversial issue has been _____. On the one hand, _____ argues _____. On the other hand, _____ contends _____. Others even maintain _____.
- When it comes to the topic of _____, most readily agree that _____. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of _____. Whereas some are convinced that _____, others maintain that _____.

Templates for introducing “standard” views:

- Conventional wisdom has it that _____.
- Common sense dictates that _____.
- The standard way of thinking about _____ is that _____.
- Many people assume that _____.

Templates for introducing ongoing debate:

- On the one hand, X argues _____ (X).
- On the other hand, Y contends that _____ (Y).
- While X may disagree, Y maintains _____ (Y).

Verbs for introducing quotes and paraphrasing:

Argue	Claim	Observe
Assert	Emphasize	Report
Believe	Insist	Suggest

Templates for introducing quotations:

- X agrees when she writes, “_____” (X).
- Y disagrees when he writes, “_____” (Y).
- The results of Z’s study of _____ complicates matters further by indicating _____ (Z).

Verbs for expressing agreement

Acknowledge	Extol	Support
Admire	Praise	Verify
Agree	Corroborate	
Endorse	Reaffirm	

Templates for agreement:

- X is surely right about _____ because Y's research has shown that _____.
- Z's findings that _____ sheds further light on X's claims that _____.
- Whereas X provides evidence that _____, Y and Z's research on _____ and _____ proves _____.
- Y's argument about _____ and Z's research on _____ are equally persuasive because _____.
- According to both X and Y, _____. X states, "_____"(X). [add analysis of evidence from X]. Y corroborates these findings by arguing that "_____"(Y). [add analysis of evidence from Y].
- These conclusions from X and Y add weight to the argument that _____.
- X explores _____, while Y examines _____, yet both agree that _____.

Verbs for expressing disagreement:

Complain	Deny	Renounce
Complicate	Question	Repudiate
Contend	Refute	
Contradict	Reect	

Templates for making concessions while still standing your ground:

- Proponents of _____ are right to argue that _____, but they exaggerate when they claim that _____.
- On the one hand, X maintains _____(X), but Y would contend that _____(Y).
- Ultimately when it comes to _____, the basic assumption is that _____, but a new body of research from _____ shows that _____.

Templates for establishing why your claims matter:

- Although _____ may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today's concern over _____.
- Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.
- These findings have important implications for _____.
- If it is true that _____, then major consequences follow for _____.
- These conclusions have significant implications for _____.
- These conclusions will have significant applications in _____.

Verbs for making recommendations

Advocate	Exhort	Urge
Call for	Implore	Warn
Demand	Plead	
Encourage	Recommend	

