

They Say, I Say Chapter 4: "Yes / No/ Okay, But: Three Ways to Respond"

Templates For Disagreeing, With Reasons

I think X is mistaken because she overlooks [].

X's claim that [] rests upon the questionable assumption that [].

I disagree with X's view that [] because, as recent research has shown, [].

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 [].

X claims [], but we don't need him to tell us that. Anyone familiar with [] has long known that [].

Templates for Agreeing

I agree that [] because my experience confirms it.

X is surely right about [] because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that [].

X's theory of [] is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of [].

I agree that [], a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe [].

Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to [].

I agree that , a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe [].

If group X is right that [], as I think they are, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that [].

Templates For 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 [].

X is right that [], but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that [].

While X is probably wrong when she claims that [], she is right that [].

Whereas X provides ample evidence that [], Y and Z's research on [] and [] convinces me that [] instead.

I'm of two minds about X's claim that []. On the one hand, I agree that []. On the other hand, I'm not sure if [].

My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support X's position that [], but I find Y's argument about [] and Z's research on [] to be equally persuasive.