“They Say, I Say” Templates

Introducing Something Implied or Assumed
→ Although X does not say so directly, she/he apparently assumes that _________________.
→ While they rarely admit as much, ________________ often take for granted that ________________.

Introducing An Outgoing Debate
→ In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been _________________. On the one hand, ________________ argues _________________. On the other hand, ________________ even contends _________________. My own view is that ________________ because.
→ When it comes to the topics of ________________, most people will readily agree that _________________.
Whereas some are convinced that ________________, others maintain that _________________.

→ As I suggested earlier, defenders of _______________ can’t have it both ways. Their assertion that _______________ is contradicted by their claim that _______________.

Capturing Authorial Action
→ X acknowledges that _________________.
→ X agreed that _________________.
→ X argues that _________________.
→ X complains that _________________.
→ X demonstrates that _________________.
→ X emphasizes that _________________.

Disagreeing, with Reasons
→ I think that X is mistaken because he/she overlooks _________________.
→ X’s claim that ________________ rests upon the questionable assumption that _________________.
→ I disagree with X’s view that _______________ because, as recent research (personal experience) has shown,
→ By focusing on _______________, X overlooks the deeper problem of _______________.
→ X claims ________________, but we don’t need him/her to tell us that. Anyone familiar with _______________ has long known that _______________.

Agreeing—with a Difference
→ X is surely right about _______________ because, as he/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 _______________.

Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously
→ Although I agree with X to a point, I cannot accept his/her overall conclusion that _______________ because _______________.
→ Although I disagree with much of what X says, I fully endorse his/her final conclusion that _______________.
→ Though I concede that _______________, I still insist that _______________.
→ X is right that ________________, but she seems to be on more dubious ground when she/he states ___.