

# Signal Phrases for Summarizing, Paraphrasing, & Quotations

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

by Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_.