

## Introducing Sources: How to Present What ‘They’ Say

The following templates help writers introduce and discuss sources (‘they’) when writing. Additionally, these templates help writers summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas of their sources in order to help the writer establish credibility and provide a solid background for a research paper or project.

### THEY SAY: Reporting what authors are saying about a topic

#### Verb Tense & Sources

➤ MLA: Generally, in MLA, when you discuss cited sources, use PRESENT TENSE (e.g. Smith believes). PRESENT PERFECT TENSE can also be used, but definitively there are no rules for verb tense and sources in the MLA Handbook.

#### Introducing an Ongoing Debate: MLA style

➤ When it comes to the topic of \_\_\_\_\_, most of expert/scholars/researchers will 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 What “They Say”

➤ A number of **sociologists** have recently suggested that X’s work has several fundamental problems.  
[The **underlined word can be replaced** with **other nouns** appropriate to the field of study—researchers, scientists, politicians, feminists, etc.]

➤ It has become common today to dismiss X’s contribution to the field of \_\_\_\_ .

➤ In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of X for \_\_\_\_.

#### Templates for Introducing “Standard Views”

Standard views are views that have become so widely accepted that by now it is essentially the conventional way of thinking about a topic.

[The **underlined word** can be replaced with other nouns appropriate to the field of study—researchers, scientists, politicians, feminists, etc.]

➤ Americans today tend to believe that \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Conventional wisdom has it that\_\_\_\_\_.

➤ The standard way of thinking about topic X has been\_\_\_\_\_.

➤ Many students assume that \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Introducing Quotations and Summaries**

MLA [notice the verbs are in present tense]

- ➤ \_\_\_\_\_, he admits.
- ➤ He states,\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Verbs for Introducing Summaries and Quotations:**

### **Verbs for Making a Claim**

Argue, Insist, Assert, Observe, Believe, Remind us, Claim, Report, Emphasize Suggest

### **Verbs for Questioning or Disagreeing**

Complain, Complicate, Contend, Contradict, Deny, Question, Refute, Reject, Renounce, Repudiate

### **Verbs for Expressing Agreement Acknowledge**

Admire, Agree, Endorse, Extol, Praise, Reaffirm, Support, Verify, Celebrate the fact that Corroborate, Do not deny

### **Verbs for Making Recommendations**

Advocate, Call for, Demand, Encourage, Exhort, Implore, Plead, Recommend, Urge Warn

## **Frame Every Quote**

Since quotations do not speak for themselves, you need to build a frame around them in which you do that speaking for them.

You need to make a **quotation sandwich = Introduction-quotation-explanation.**

Introduce the quotation adequately by explaining **who is speaking** and setting up **what the quotation says**. Then follow up with **explaining why you consider the quotation important** and what you take it to say.

[The ( ) **represents** the placement of your **in-text citation**.]

For introducing quotations MLA style:

- In X's view, " \_\_\_\_\_" (page #).
- X agrees when she writes, " \_\_\_\_\_" (page #).
- X disagrees when he writes, " \_\_\_\_\_" (page #).
- X complicates matters further when she writes, " \_\_\_\_\_" (page #).