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 ________________. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of ________________. 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 right about ________________ because, as he/she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that ________________.
- X’s theory of ________________ is 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 ________________.