“Yes / No / Okay, but”

Three Ways to Respond in Your Evaluation of Authors’ viewpoints
Templates for Agreeing
“Yes”

- I agree that diversity in the student body is educationally valuable because my experience at Shiloh 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 light on the difficult problem of ________________.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically comes down to ______________.
Templates for Disagreeing, with Reasons

“No”

- X is mistake because she overlooks ________________.
- X’s claim that ________________ rests upon the questionable assumption that ________________.
- I disagree with X’s views that ________________ because, as ________________ has shown, ________________.
- X contradicts herself/can’t have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues ________________. On the other, she also says ________________.
- By focusing on ________________, X overlooks the deeper problem of ________________.
- X’s assertion that ________________ does not fit the facts of the story.
Templates for Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously ("Okay, but...")

- Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overriding assumption that ______________.
- Although while much of what X says is inaccurate, his final conclusion that ______________ is correct.
- 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 ______________.
“Yes, but...” continued

- Whereas X provides ample evidence that ______________, Y’s and Z’s claim on __________ and __________ is even more convincing that ______________instead.
- There are two ways to look at X’s claim that __________. On the one hand, X is right to claim that ______________. On the other hand, there is still some question if X is correct that ______________.
“Skeptics May Object”

Planting a Naysayer in Your Text
Templates for Entertaining Objections

• Yet some readers may challenge my view by insisting that _____________.
• Of course, many will probably disagree on the grounds that _____________.
• Here many ________ would probably object that _____________.
• But ____________ would certainly take issue with the argument that _________________.
• Nevertheless, both followers and critics of Malcolm X will probably suggest otherwise and argue that _________________.

Although the book is poorly organized, it still raises an important issue.

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 ______________.

On the one hand, X is correct in that ______________. However, on the other hand, I still insist that ____________.