

“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 _____.

Templates for Making Concession While Still Standing Your Ground

- 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 _____.