

Here are some templates for agreeing and disagreeing:

- ▶ Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____.
- ▶ Although I disagree with X on _____ and _____, I agree with her conclusion that _____.
- ▶ Political scientists studying _____ have argued that it is caused by _____. While _____ contributes to the problem, _____ is also an important factor.
- ▶ While noting _____, I contend _____.

Here are some templates for introducing gaps in the existing research:

- ▶ Studies of X have indicated _____. It is not clear, however, that this conclusion applies to _____.
- ▶ _____ often take for granted that _____. Few have investigated this assumption, however.
- ▶ X's work tells us a great deal about _____. Can this work be generalized to _____?
- ▶ Our understanding of _____ remains incomplete because previous work has not examined _____.

mary, you might describe their positions and also consider what in their work is relevant for the point you wish to make. This kind of summary is especially appropriate when you have a large amount of research material on a topic and want to identify the major strands of a debate or to show how the work of one author builds on that of another. Here are some templates for overview summaries:

- ▶ In addressing the question of _____, researchers have considered several explanations for _____. X argues that _____. According to Y and Z, another plausible explanation is _____.
- ▶ What is the effect of _____ on _____? Previous work on _____ by X and by Y and Z supports _____.
- ▶ Scholars point to the role of _____ in _____.
- ▶ Existing research on _____ presents convincing evidence of _____.

Here are some templates for discussing data:

- ▶ In order to test the hypothesis that _____, we assessed _____.
- ▶ Our calculations suggest _____.
- ▶ I used _____ to investigate _____. The results of this investigation indicate _____.

that your analysis does not explain or because you do not have the right data to investigate a particular question. Or perhaps someone may object to assumptions underlying your argument or how you handled your data. Here are some templates for considering naysayers:

- ▶ _____ might object that _____.
- ▶ Is my claim realistic? I have argued _____, but readers may question _____.
- ▶ My explanation accounts for _____ but does not explain _____.

“Why Should We Care?”

Who should care about your research, and why? Since the social sciences attempt to explain human behavior, it is important to consider how your research affects the assumptions we make

cations of your work may be so broad that they would be of interest to almost anyone, it's never a bad idea to identify explicitly any groups of people who will find your work important.

Templates for establishing why your claims matter:

- ▶ X is important because _____.
- ▶ Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.
- ▶ The finding that _____ should be of interest to _____ because _____.

As noted at the beginning of this chapter, the complexity of people allows us to look at their behavior from many different viewpoints. Much has been, and will be, said about how and why people do the things they do. As a result, we can look