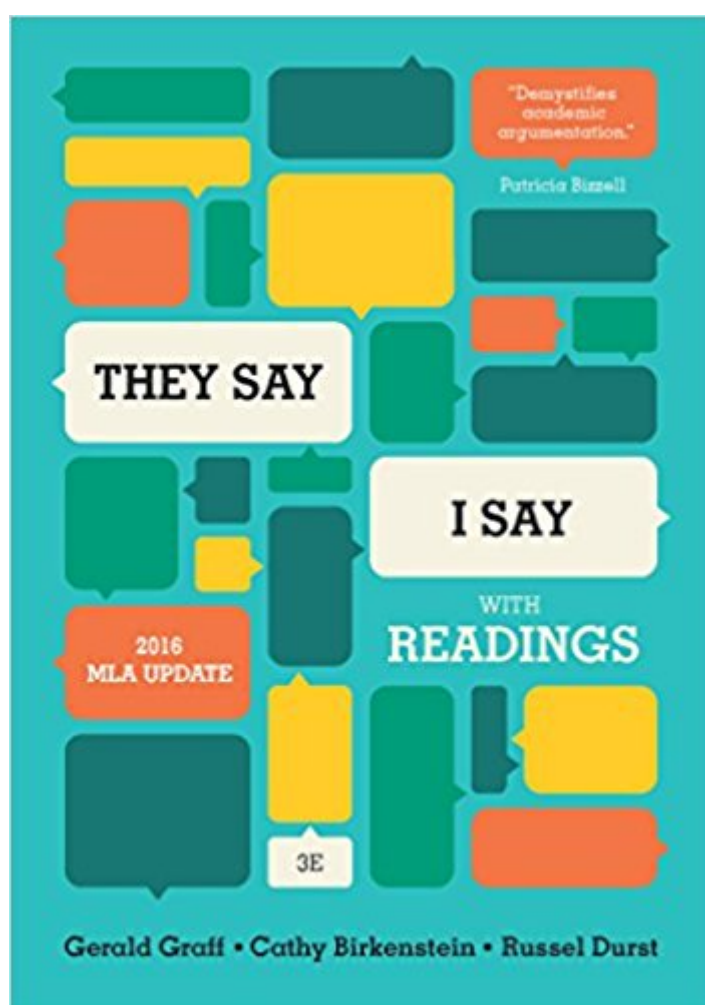


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# "They Say / I Say": The Moves That Matter In Academic Writing, With 2016 MLA Update And Readings (Third Edition)



## Synopsis

THIS TITLE HAS BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT THE 2016 MLA UPDATE. The best-selling book on academic writing—*They Say / I Say*—is in use at more than 1,500 schools. It identifies the key rhetorical moves in academic writing, showing students how to frame their arguments in the larger context of what others have said and providing templates to help them make those moves. And, because these moves are central across all disciplines, the book includes chapters on writing in the sciences, writing in the social sciences, and—new to this edition—writing about literature.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The best tribute to "They Say / I Say" I've heard is this, from a student: "This is one book I'm not selling back to the bookstore." Nods all around the room. The students love this book. --Christine Ross, Quinnipiac University  
The argument of this book is important--that there are "moves" to academic writing . . . and that knowledge of them can be generative. The template format is a good way to teach and demystify the moves that matter. I like this book a lot. --David Bartholomae, University of Pittsburgh  
A brilliant book. . . . It's like a membership card in the academic club. --Eileen Seifert, DePaul University  
Demystifies academic argumentation. --Patricia Bizzell, College of the Holy Cross  
"This book demystifies rhetorical moves, tricks of the trade that many students are unsure about. It's reasonable, helpful, nicely written . . . and hey, it's true. I would have found it immensely helpful myself in high school and college. --Mike Rose, University of California, Los Angeles  
The best tribute to They Say / I Say I've heard is this, from a student: This is one book I'm

not selling back to the bookstore. Nods all around the room. The students love this book. --Christine Ross, Quinnipiac University "The argument of this book is important that there are moves to academic writing . . . and that knowledge of them can be generative. The template format is a good way to teach and demystify the moves that matter. I like this book a lot. --David Bartholomae, University of Pittsburgh "A brilliant book. . . . It s like a membership card in the academic club. --Eileen Seifert, DePaul University "Students need to walk a fine line between their work and that of others, and this book helps them walk that line, providing specific methods and techniques for introducing, explaining, and integrating other voices with their own ideas. --Libby Miles, University of Rhode Island "This book uncovers the rhetorical conventions that transcend disciplinary boundaries, so that even freshmen, newcomers to the academy, are immediately able to join in the conversation. --Margaret Weaver, Missouri State University" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gerald Graff, a professor of English and education at the University of Illinois at Chicago and 2008 president of the Modern Language Association of America, has had a major impact on teachers through such books as *Professing Literature: An Institutional History*, *Beyond the Culture Wars: How Teaching the Conflicts Can Revitalize American Education*, and *Clueless in Academe: How Schooling Obscures the Life of the Mind*. Cathy Birkenstein is a lecturer in English at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has published essays on writing in *College English*, and, with Gerald Graff in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Academe*, and *College Composition and Communication*.

I am in a Ph.D. program at Cornell University, but having already completed an undergrad and a Master's degree, I thought my writing was pretty good. However, after using the tips from this book, my Ivy League professor told me my work had substantially improved. I absolutely recommend this book to anyone looking to improve their writing. I also recommend "Making Sense in the Life Sciences: A Student's Guide to Writing and Research" for anyone looking to help organize lots of information into a logical flow/argument.

Perfect for high school and community college classes. Initially I was skeptical when I chose this for my remedial community college writing course. But when the course was over, many of the students told me how much they enjoyed using and learning from TSIS. It's clearly laid out, easy to follow, instructors do not even need a supplemental text, short articles are included in the back.

The book has good recommendations for writers of research, but most of the templates I have used. The problem I have with the Kindle Edition is that it says you can use the Kindle for PC version for Windows 8 or 10. Well, when I try to open it on my PC, it says it does not work for Windows 8 or 10. So I have to read it on my phone, which is an IOS 7, but that's still quite small to read on. SMH.

This is a very approachable and helpful introduction to academic writing. It contains many concrete "templates" for organizing a student's ideas and sources into a conversation aimed at proving a thesis. I use it to provide a basic structure for writing. I find it is best used in conjunction with other examples of excellent writing so that students can see that good writing needs a clear structure ("They Say/I Say's" focus), but is about much more than structure alone.

Perfect Condition! Just As Described

It was educational, it helped in my college English class, but I had a hard time liking the tone of the book or the format. It seemed awkward at times in my opinion and I found myself forcing myself to focus while reading it. Lots of great helpful information to help with writing essays though!

I adopted this for my English Comp class, but it could be usefully assigned for students at any stage of higher education, through graduate school. The authors offer a clear and useful template approach to constructing academic arguments in several disciplines, on the premise that all good academic writing forms part of the stream of intellectual discourse (the "they say" to which a writer adds her or his "I say"). These authors know what they are talking about. Buy this book.

Not an easy read but has the key functions you need to write better especially for college and graduate school. Won't be too useful for high school or Ph.D. since it'll be over or under the respective expected skill level of writing.

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