

Academic phrases

Below you'll find lists of commonly used academic phrases. These templates can be used to introduce quotes and, especially, comment on them. On page 2, you'll find a list that's particularly important for argumentative essays: phrases to set up counterarguments and rebuttals.

Together they represent the kind of intellectual moves – thought processes – that academics use when thinking about a topic or responding to a reading. The templates push you into a deeper understanding of a topic and provide structures/language to present that understanding.

Another way of looking at them? Algorithms. Mental steps that move the program (your thinking/writing) through a series of operational steps that lead to solutions. And note the plural in the last word of the previous sentence: it's essential in the kind of thinking and writing this course is meant to engender.

Print and keep this by your computer as you draft and revise your work.

<p>Arguing for and against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This becomes clear when one examines... • This lends weight to the argument that... • Support for this interpretation comes from... • While it may well be valid that..., X argues the importance of... • A serious drawback of/problem with this approach is... • One of the prime failings of this theory or explanation is... • If, for the sake of argument, we assume... • One of the most obvious consequences of...is... • Although it may well be true that..., it is important not to overlook... • A more plausible explanation for ___or of ___ would... • The reason for ___ is unknown, but...has been suggested by X as a possible factor. • It is important to distinguish carefully between... • The extent to which this reflects...is unclear. • Just as • In the same way that <p>From <i>Phrase Book for Writing Papers and Research</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____'s argument/point is incisive because cogent because ... persuasive because ... effective because ... • This ___ is relevant to . . . has significant implications for ... • This ___ effectively proves challenges explains ... <p>Above from AUSB Writing Center 5/18/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This ___ suggests that _____ • If this continues, then _____ • If _____ continues then _____ • The consequences of this include _____ • The consequences of _____ include _____ • Focusing on _____ results in _____ can lead to _____ • Focusing on this results in _____ can lead to _____
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Phrases for Counterarguments & Rebuttals: from AUSB Writing Center 5/18/17

<p>Concession Admit that the other side has some merit.</p>	<p>Refutation Phrases Point out the flaws in the other side, and return to your claim.</p>
<p>It is true that ... Certainly... Admittedly... Of course... Obviously... It may seem that ... Although X is right that ... X is right to argue that ...</p>	<p>But more careful analysis shows that... However, ... therefore, ... On the other hand, ... so... Nevertheless, ... as a result... However, it is less certain that ... Therefore, ... Nonetheless, ... Thus, ... However, the conclusion that ... is questionable because... But it does not necessarily follow that. In fact, ...</p>