Summary and Opinion Templates

Adapted from Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein and Russel Durst's *They Say, I Say*.

A Good Summary (Feel free to manipulate the templates)

X = author.

**The first time you introduce the author, you must include his or her first and last name. After that, you only refer to the author by his or her last name or a pronoun (he or she). You may also choose to refer to him or her as "the writer" or "the author." Just make sure that any substitute words you use to refer to the author are logical.

In X article, "_____," _____is portrayed as _____. X's portrayal consists of the following. First, X emphasizes _____. Next, X conveys the idea that _____. Likewise, X calls into question _____. Taken together, these details about _____ convey the idea that _____. X is most effective in conveying this idea when she states: "_____" (pg. #). In other words, _____. Essentially, <u>X</u> believes _____.

In "_____," X insists that _____. His basic argument is that _____. Citing _____ as a case in point, he notes that "_____" (pg. #). X's point is that _____. Ultimately, X is suggesting that _____.

In X's,"_____," she argues that _____. X points out that _____. Likewise, X emphasizes that _____. While the writer acknowledges that _____, X still insists that _____. In X's view, "_____" (pg. #). Basically, X is saying that _____. The writer ultimately suggests that _____.

In "_____," X argues that _____. X claims that _____. According to X, "_____" (pg. #). In making this comment, X argues that _____. Essentially, the writer hopes to _____.

A Good Opinion Paragraph

(Disagree)

I disagree with X that _____.   This, however, is not the case. In reality, _____. For example, _____. Likewise, _____. In my own experience, I have witnessed _____. Thus, the writer's portrayal is incorrect because it assumes that _____ when really _____.

(Agree)

I agree that _____ because my experience _____ confirms it. To put it bluntly, _____. Likewise, _____. As an illustration, _____. In other words, _____. This proves that ultimately _____.

(Agree and Disagree Simultaneously)

I'm of two minds about <u>X</u>'s argument that _____. On one hand, I agree that _____. As an illustration, _____. On the other hand, I'm not sure that _____. Consider _____. In other words, _____. Likewise, _____. This shows that _____. Therefore, even though _____, I think that _____.