The Graff Template

The argument template that Graff describes helps students use the elements of an argument—claim, support, examples—to guide their reading and writing processes. Although it may be somewhat prescriptive, it provides useful structure for students to follow until they internalize the process.

The general argument made by author X in his/her work ____________________ (title) __________________ is that _______________________________. She/he writes, “____________________________.” In this passage, X is suggesting that ______________________________. In conclusion, X’s belief is that ______________________________.

In my view, X is wrong/right, because ______________________________. More specifically, I believe that ______________________________. For example, ______________________________. Although X might object that ______________________________, I maintain that ______________________________. Therefore, I conclude that ______________________________.¹