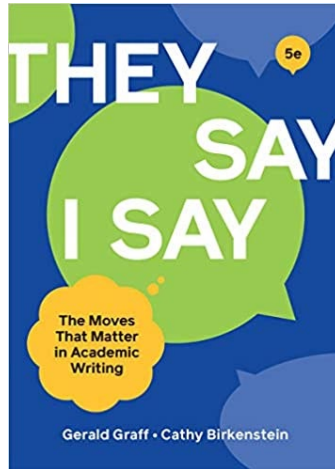


ACAD/DE English 122 (Research & Composition II)



Text: Birkenstein & Graff's *They Say/I Say*[Links to an external site.](#)

Task: Students will read Birkenstein and Graff's informational text *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* and complete the short, written assignment below.

Acclaimed writing instructor, Peter Elbow, introduced the concept of the “believing game” in response to what he called the “doubting game.” Often when we read, we read from a critical point of view, conditioned to find fault or defect in arguments we may initially be inclined to disagree with – the “doubting game.” Elbow challenges writers to engage in the “believing game” as we read; in other words, read with an open mind to try new ideas on for size. Essentially, the “believing game” encourages reading to understand as opposed to reading to critique.

To get a feel for Peter Elbow’s “believing game,” try the following task. Think about an idea you are inclined to oppose: cats make better companions than dogs, female athletes should be compensated equally to their male counterparts, it is rude to recline your seat on an airplane, the voting age in the United States should be lowered to 16, etc.

Once you’ve selected a topic you feel strongly about, write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the position *opposite* your actual stance on the issue. Then write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the position that you actually hold on this topic. Here is the goal: if you’ve successfully completed the task, your reader should not be able to tell which position you actually endorse.

Be prepared to share your writing with both your instructor and classmates.

For more information on Elbow’s “the believing game” students should carefully consider the ideas and concepts in chapter two of the summer reading text. Student responses should be typed and formatted according to MLA guidelines. Please edit your work using Grammarly before submitting the polished draft to Canvas.

Due Date: Students taking English 122 in the fall or the spring semester should submit their completed summer reading assignment to the Summer Reading Canvas page no later than **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 at 11:59 pm.**

Point Value: 30 pts.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. DeFelice (defelice@sjvhs.org) or Mrs. Gadaleta (gadaleta@sjv.org).