

## "SKEPTICS MAY OBJECT"

... can be labeled, and you can add precision and clarity by identifying what those labels are.

### FOR NAMING YOUR NAYSAYERS

... nists would probably object that gender does ...

... nists would certainly take issue with the argu- ...

... rse, may want to question whether ...

... th followers and critics of Malcolm X will prob- ...  
... erwise and argue that ...

... people dislike such labels and may even ...  
... els applied to themselves. Some feel that ...  
... als in boxes, stereotyping them and glossing ...  
... each of us unique. And it's true that labels ...  
... ropriately, in ways that ignore individuality ...  
... eotypes. But since the life of ideas, includ- ...  
... ost private thoughts, is conducted through ...  
... rather than solitary individuals, intellectual ...  
... s labels to give definition and serve as a ...  
... hand. If you categorically reject all labels, ...  
... portant resource and even mislead readers ...  
... rself and others as having no connection to ...  
... also miss an opportunity to generalize the ...  
... elevance of your work to some larger con- ...  
... you attribute a position you are summarizing ...  
... or historical materialism, your argument is ...  
... out your own solitary views but about the ...

## Planting a Naysayer in Your Text

... intersection of broad ideas and habits of mind that many ...  
... readers may already have a stake in.

The way to minimize the problem of stereotyping, then, is ...  
... not to categorically reject labels but to refine and qualify their ...  
... use, as the following templates demonstrate.

- ▶ Although not all *Christians* think alike, some of them will prob- ...  
... ably dispute my claim that \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ *Non-native English speakers* are so diverse in their views that it's ...  
... hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on ...  
... the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_.

Another way to avoid needless stereotyping is to qualify labels ...  
... carefully, substituting "pro bono lawyers" for "lawyers" in gen- ...  
... eral, for example, or "quantitative sociologists" for all "social ...  
... scientists," and so on.

### TEMPLATES FOR INTRODUCING OBJECTIONS INFORMALLY

Objections can also be introduced in more informal ways. For ...  
... instance, you can frame objections in the form of questions.

- ▶ But is my proposal realistic? What are the chances of its actually ...  
... being adopted?
- ▶ Yet is it necessarily true that \_\_\_\_\_? Is it always the case, ...  
... as I have been suggesting, that \_\_\_\_\_?
- ▶ However, does the evidence I've cited prove conclusively ...  
... that \_\_\_\_\_?