Chapter 5: “And Yet”: Distinguishing What You Say from What They Say

Use one of the Templates for Signaling Who Is Saying What in Your Own Writing (71-72) to paraphrase the following quotation from Plato’s “The Allegory of the Cave”: “‘If we’re thinking about the effect of education—or the lack of it—on our nature, there’s another comparison we can make. Picture human beings living in some sort of underground cave dwelling, with an entrance which is long, as wide as the cave, and open to the light. Here they live, from earliest childhood, with their legs and necks in chains, so that they have to stay where they are, looking only ahead of them, prevented by the chains from turning their heads. They have light from a distant fire, which is burning behind them and above them. Between the fire and the prisoners, at a higher level than them, is a path along which you must picture a low wall that has been built, like the screen which hides people when they are giving a puppet show, and above which they make the puppets appear’” (1).

Chapter 6: “Skeptics May Object”: Planting a Naysayer in Your Text

Identify a group or individual that might object to the narrator Socrates’s claim in Plato’s “The Allegory of the Cave” that “‘Education…would be the art of directing this instrument, of finding the easiest and most effective way of turning it round. Not the art of putting the power of sight into it, but the art which assumes it possesses this power—albeit incorrectly aligned, and looking in the wrong direction—and contrives to make it look in the right direction’” (4).

Next use either one of the Templates for Naming Your Naysayers (83) or Templates for Making Concessions while Still Standing Your Ground (89) to address this objection.

Chapter 7: “So What? Who Cares?”: Saying Why It Matters

Use one of the Templates for Establishing Why Your Claims Matter (98-99) to frame the following quotation from “The Allegory of the Cave”: “‘My own view, for what it’s worth, is that in the realm of what can be known the things seen last, and seen with great difficulty, is the form of character of the good. But when it is seen, the conclusion must that it turns out to be the cause of all that is right and good for everything’” (3).
Chapter 8: “As a Result”: Connecting the Parts
Recall the sample transitions in They Say, I Say (108-110), along with this chapter’s suggested use of pointing words (112-114) and repetition of key words and phrases (114-118). Now, reread “The Allegory of the Cave.” Annotate the connecting devices by underlining the transitions, circling the key terms, and putting boxes around the pointing terms.

If you finish early, use Chapter 9 in They Say, I Say to reword or rephrase “The Allegory of the Cave” to make it more formal or more colloquial.