A. Using one of the “Verbs for Making a Claim” in They Say, I Say, (argue, assert, believe, claim, emphasize, insist, observe, remind us, report, or suggest (39)), write a sentence or two summarizing Paul Theroux’s claims below. Use a different verb(s) for each summary.

1. The whole idea of manhood in America is pitiful, in my opinion. This version of masculinity is a little like having to wear an illfitting coat for one's entire life (by contrast, I imagine femininity to be an oppressive sense of nakedness). Even the expression "Be a man!" strikes me as insulting and abusive. It means: Be stupid, be unfeeling, obedient, soldierly and stop thinking. Man means “manly”—how can one think about men without considering the terrible ambition of manliness? And yet it is part of every man's life. It is a hideous and crippling lie; it not only insists on difference and connives at superiority, it is also by its very nature destructive—emotionally damaging and socially harmful. (1)

2. Femininity—being lady-like—implies needing a man as witness and seducer; but masculinity celebrates the exclusive company of men. That is why it is so grotesque; and that is also why there is no manliness without inadequacy—because it denies men the natural friendship of women.

   It is very hard to imagine any concept of manliness that does not belittle women, and it begins very early. At an age when I wanted to meet girls—let's say the treacherous years of thirteen to sixteen—I was told to take up a sport, get more fresh air, join the Boy Scouts, and I was urged not to read so much. It was the 1950s and if you asked too many questions about sex you were sent to camp—boy's camp, of course: the nightmare. Nothing is more unnatural or prison-like than a boy's camp, but if it were not for them we would have no Elks' Lodges, no pool rooms, no boxing matches, no Marines. (2)

B. Practice the “quotation sandwich” technique introduced in chapter 3 of They Say, I Say by framing the following quotations between one of the Templates for Introducing Quotations (46) and one of the Templates for Explaining Quotations (47). Use different template “slices” for each quotation.

Templates for Introducing Quotations

- X states, “.....”
- As the prominent (educator/writer/etc.) puts it, “....”
- According to X, “....”
- X him/herself writes, “....”
- Writing in the essay “Y,” X complains that “....”
- In X’s view, “....”
- X agrees when s/he writes, “....”
- X complicates matters further when s/he writes, “....”

Templates for Explaining Quotations

- Basically, X is warning ....
- In other words, X believes ....
- X is corroborating the age-old adage that ....
- X’s point is that ....
- The essence of X’s argument is that ....
1. “The youth who is subverted, as most are, into believing in the masculine ideal is effectively separated from women and he spends the rest of his life finding women a riddle and a nuisance” (1).

2. “In a sense, little girls are traditionally urged to please adults with a kind of coquettishness, while boys are enjoined to behave like monkeys towards each other” (2).

3. “Everything in stereotyped manliness goes against the life of the mind” (2).

C. Using one of They Say, I Say’s “Templates for Disagreeing, with Reasons” (60), “Templates for Agreeing” (62) (keeping in mind “[e]ven as you’re agreeing, it’s important to bring something new and fresh to the table, adding something that makes you a valuable participant in the conversation” (61)), or “Templates for Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously” (65-66), frame your response to Paul Theroux’s statements below in a sentence or so. Feel free to add a sentence or two beyond the template to elaborate your position, as necessary. Use a different template for each quotation.

Templates for Disagreeing, with Reasons

- X is mistaken because s/he overlooks ....
- X’s claim that ... rests upon the questionable assumption that ....
- I disagree with X’s view that ... because, as recent research has shown, ....
- X contradicts him/herself (or can’t have it both ways). On the one hand, s/he argues .... On the other hand, s/he also says ....
- By focusing on ..., X overlooks the deeper problem of ....

Templates for Agreeing

- I agree that ... because my experience ... confirms it.
- X is surely right about ... because, as s/he may not be aware, recent studies have shown that ....
- X’s theory of ... is extremely useful because it sheds light on the difficult problem of ....
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to ....
- I agree that ..., a point that needs emphasizing since so many people still believe ....
- If X is right that ..., as I think s/he is, then we need to reassess the popular assumption that ....

Templates for Agreeing and Disagreeing Simultaneously

- Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his/her overriding assumption that ....
- Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his/her final conclusion that ....
- Though I concede that ..., I still insist that ....
- X is right that ..., but s/he seems on more dubious ground when s/he claims that ....
- While X is probably wrong when s/he claims that ..., s/he is right that ....
I’m of two minds about X’s claims that .... On the one hand, I agree that .... On the other hand, I’m not sure if ....

My feelings on the issue are mixed. I do support X’s position that ..., but I find Y’s argument about ... to be equally persuasive.

1. “Just as high school basketball teaches you how to be a poor loser, the manly attitude towards sports seems to be little more than a recipe for creating bad marriages, social misfits, moral degenersates, sadists, latent rapists and just plain louts” (1).

2. “Any objective study would find the quest for manliness essentially right-wing, puritanical, cowardly, neurotic and fueled largely by a fear of women. It is also certainly philistine” (2).

3. “There would be no point in saying any of this if it were not generally accepted that to be a man is somehow—even now in feminist-influenced America—a privilege. It is on the contrary an unmerciful and punishing burden” (3).