

## Sentence Starters: Tools for learning the language of discussion

### Expressing an Opinion

I think/believe that.....

Based on \_\_\_\_\_, I think .....

Not everyone will agree with me, but ...

To me, it seems obvious that ....

In my opinion.....

It seems to me that .....

I feel that ...

I think that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

### Agreeing

I agree because...

That makes sense because...

I agree with the point that....

I agree with \_\_\_\_\_. Also, \_\_\_\_\_

I agree with \_\_\_\_\_, but on the other hand....

\_\_\_\_\_ and I are coming from the same position...

That's true. I also think that...

That's how I see it too, because.....

My idea is similar to/related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea.....

I like what \_\_\_\_\_ said because...

\_\_\_\_\_ 's point about \_\_\_\_\_ is important because ....

The evidence for \_\_\_\_\_ is overwhelming because ....

### Building on an Idea

Another example is .....

You made a good point when you said....

I see what you're saying. That reminds me of...

Wouldn't that also mean \_\_\_\_\_ ?

If that is the case, then....

I really liked \_\_\_\_\_'s idea about \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to add something. I would say that...

Yes, but it's also true that...

Even though \_\_\_\_\_, I think....

As \_\_\_\_\_ already mentioned....

My idea is related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea \_\_\_\_\_ ...

My idea builds on \_\_\_\_\_'s idea. I ...

### Paraphrasing

If I understand you correctly, you think....

What I'm hearing you say is....

In other words, you think....

Put another way, you're saying.....

Let me see if I've got this right. You're saying...

Most of us seem to agree that....

So you're saying that....

Is it fair to say that you believe ....?

## Asking for Clarification

\_\_\_\_\_, could you please rephrase that?

I have a question about \_\_\_\_\_.

I wasn't sure about what happened here....

Are you saying....?

Could you please explain what \_\_\_\_\_ means?

Could you please explain that in another way?

In other words, are you saying \_\_\_\_\_?

What's your evidence that.....?

\_\_\_\_\_, can you sum up your position in one sentence?

It's not quite clear. Can you explain what you said about \_\_\_\_\_?

Can you say more about \_\_\_\_\_?

I'm confused when you say \_\_\_\_\_. Can you elaborate?

What do you think about.....?

Could you please repeat that?

Could you please give me an example?

I didn't understand \_\_\_\_\_, do you mean \_\_\_\_\_?

Could you explain a bit more about \_\_\_\_\_?

Can you say more about \_\_\_\_\_?

## Affirming an Idea, Adding to It or Extending an Idea

My idea is related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea \_\_\_\_\_.

I agree with \_\_\_\_\_. Also, \_\_\_\_\_.

My idea is similar/related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea .....

\_\_\_\_\_, I want to know more about .....

I was thinking about what \_\_\_\_\_ said, and I was wondering if.....

I really liked \_\_\_\_\_'s idea about \_\_\_\_\_.

My idea builds on \_\_\_\_\_'s idea. I ....

This makes me think....

Now I'm wondering if....

## Adding Information

On page # \_\_, in paragraph # \_\_ it says...

I agree with \_\_\_\_\_, and also want to add....

Another example to support that idea is....

I also think that....

## Offering a Suggestion

What if we ..... ?

Here's something we might think about.....

Maybe we could .....

## Complimenting

I like the way \_\_\_\_\_

Now I understand better because.....

This will be helpful to me because .....

\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for explaining .....

## Disagreeing

I have another way of looking at this....

I'd like to suggest a different idea....

I disagree because....

I don't think that's right since...

That's not how I see it. I think.....

Actually it isn't true that.....

Another way to look at it is.....

That's a valid point, but I feel ...

On the other hand ...

I do agree with the point about \_\_\_\_\_, but .....

I have another way of looking at this.....

I don't quite agree with your point about \_\_\_\_\_, because\_\_\_\_\_.

While I can see why you believe this, I see this differently. In my opinion....

I understand where you're coming from, but I see it a bit differently. From my perspective, .....

I agree with your idea, but I was thinking more along the lines of ....

I understand what you're saying, but I think it has a deeper/different meaning ...

I'm not sure I agree with what \_\_\_\_\_ said because \_\_\_\_\_.

I can see that \_\_\_\_\_; however, I can't see \_\_\_\_\_,

## Summarizing

Overall, what I'm trying to say is ....

My whole point in one sentence is ....

More than anything else, I believe that ...,

## Soliciting a Response

\_\_\_\_\_, what do you think?

\_\_\_\_\_, do you agree?

## Changing the Subject

Does anyone have any final comments to add about \_\_\_\_\_, or shall we move on to a new subject?

I think we've exhausted the topic of \_\_\_\_\_. Can we move on to \_\_\_\_\_ ?