

Sentence Starters for Academic Classroom Conversations

Level 1: Classroom Discussions

Introducing ideas I think.... I learned I believe ... I noticed	Elaborate/Build on other people's ideas My idea is similar because.... I'd like to add on to that idea My idea builds upon _____'s idea. I would like to elaborate by adding I also think that ...	Agree I agree with ____ that Like ____ said In other words, you think ... I agree when you said ... As ____ already pointed out, it seems like..	Disagree I don't agree with you because ... I have a different idea I see your point, but I think ... Another way to explain it is.....
Clarify Can you rephrase what you just said? Can you explain____ ____? In other words, you think ____ What I hear you saying is ____	Reporting out what you or your partner wrote I said ... I wrote... I thought _____ said... _____ wrote ... _____ thought	Reporting out how you and your partner AGREED We agreed that We thought We choose We learned...	Reporting out how you and your partner DISAGREED Our ideas were different because One way our ideas differed was I disagree with/I don't think that ____ because ____. That's not how I see it. In my opinion/from my perspective, _____.

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Level 2: Academic Discourse

Summarize The main idea is The author's argument is The evidence shows (implies, indicates) ... The author explains....	Present evidence The author argues An important idea is.... The evidence that supports the author's argument is The most convincing evidence is According to the evidence, it is clear that _____. An example from the text is	Evaluate I agree with _____ argument because... Another explanation could be This evidence/source is significant because This evidence/source is relevant to the thesis because
Corroborate An example from other sources is The evidence from ____ source supports the evidence in source _____ _____ is like _____ because This source connects to others sources because/by	Compare- Contrast _____ and _____ are similar/different because..... _____ 's and _____ 's views on _____ are similar/different The most important similarity/difference is	Debate I have a different perspective because ... I see your point, but I think ... Another way to explain it is..... Other evidence indicates..... An opposing/alternative viewpoint might be _____.

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Level 3: Discipline Specific Discourse

Significance The most significant event/person was ____ because _____ is significant because..... _____ reveals that/how The most significant factor(s) contributing to _____ was The author suggests/argues that _____ is most significant. Although ____ used to be seen as most significant, now _____ is considered	Evidence Because the source was created by/when/for Because the author was I can use this evidence because These sources confirm/contradict I can infer from the source that the author.. Because the historical context was, we can conclude....	Continuity and Change _____ changed between _____ and _____ by.... _____ was a continuation of _____. _____ was a departure from _____. While _____ changed, _____ remained the same in the _____ period/era/years. _____ shows a progression/decline of _____ A major turning point was ____ because
Cause and Effect _____ happened because... _____ influenced _____ by The implications of _____ on _____ were... _____ responsible for _____ The impact of _____ on _____ was.... The role _____ played in _____ was ... _____ contributed to _____ The factors that contributed to _____ were	Perspective These conflicting sources tell you about _____. _____ and _____ held different views about _____. _____’s view on _____ challenged the prevailing views about ____. In the debates over _____, _____ appeared to present a more reasoned argument. The perspectives of _____ (and _____) differ about _____.	Judgment _____ had a good or bad/positive or negative effect on _____. _____ was beneficial to _____. _____ was justified/worth because _____ justified in _____ because _____ policies/actions were responsible for _____. _____ advanced or hurt _____. _____ support the need for _____. _____ did/did not handle _____ effectively because.....