

# Sentence Starters for Academic Classroom Conversations

## Level 1: Classroom Discussions

<b>Introducing ideas</b>  I think....  I learned ....  I believe ...  I noticed ....	<b>Elaborate/Build on other people's ideas</b>  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 ...	<b>Agree</b>  I agree with ____ that ....  Like ____ said  In other words, you think ...  I agree when you said ...  As ____ already pointed out, it seems like..
<b>Clarify</b>  Can you rephrase what you just said?  Can you explain____ ____?  In other words, you think ____  What I hear you saying is ____	<b>Reporting out what you or your partner wrote</b>  I said ...  I wrote...  I thought ....  ____ said...  ____ wrote ...  ____ thought	<b>Reporting out how you and your partner AGREED</b>  We agreed that ....  We thought ....  We choose ....  We learned...
<b>Disagree</b>  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....	<b>Reporting out how you and your partner DISAGREED</b>  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, ____.	<b>Others:</b>

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## Level 2: Academic Discourse

<b>Summarize</b>  The main idea is .....  The author's argument is .....  The evidence shows (implies, indicates) ...  The author explains....	<b>Present evidence</b>  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
<b>Corroborate</b>  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 .....	<b>Compare- Contrast</b>  _____ and _____ are similar/different because.....  _____ 's and _____ 's views on _____ are similar/different .....  The most important similarity/difference is .....
<b>Evaluate</b>  I agree with _____ argument because...  Another explanation could be ....  This evidence/source is significant because ....  This evidence/source is relevant to the thesis because .....	<b>Debate</b>  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	Evidence
<p>The most significant event/person was _____ because _____ is significant because.....</p> <p>_____ reveals that/how .....</p> <p>The most significant factor(s) contributing to _____ was</p> <p>The author suggests/argues that _____ is most significant.</p> <p>Although _____ used to be seen as most significant, now _____ is considered .....</p>	<p>Because the source was created by/when/for .....</p> <p>Because the author was _____</p> <p>I can use this evidence because .....</p> <p>These sources confirm/contradict .....</p> <p>I can infer from the source that the author...</p> <p>Because the historical context was ....., we can conclude....</p>
Cause and Effect	Perspective
<p>_____ happened because...</p> <p>_____ influenced _____ by</p> <p>The implications of _____ on _____ were...</p> <p>_____ responsible for _____</p> <p>The impact of _____ on _____ was....</p> <p>The role _____ played in _____ was ...</p> <p>_____ contributed to _____</p> <p>The factors that contributed to _____ were</p>	<p>These conflicting sources tell you about _____.</p> <p>_____ and _____ held different views about _____.</p> <p>_____ 's view on _____ challenged the prevailing views about _____.</p> <p>In the debates over _____, _____ appeared to present a more reasoned argument.</p> <p>The perspectives of _____ (and _____) differ about _____.</p>
Continuity and Change	Judgment
<p>_____ changed between _____ and _____ by....</p> <p>_____ was a continuation of _____.</p> <p>_____ was a departure from _____.</p> <p>While _____ changed, _____ remained the same in the _____ period/era/years.</p> <p>_____ shows a progression/decline of _____</p> <p>A major turning point was _____ because</p>	<p>_____ had a good or bad/positive or negative effect on _____.</p> <p>_____ was beneficial to _____.</p> <p>_____ was justified/worth because .....</p> <p>_____ justified in _____ because .....</p> <p>_____ policies/actions were responsible for _____.</p> <p>_____ advanced or hurt _____.</p> <p>_____ support the need for _____.</p> <p>_____ did/did not handle _____ effectively because.....</p>