

# Sentence Starters for Academic Classroom Conversations

## Level 1: Classroom Discussions

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

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## Level 2: Academic Discourse

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

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## Level 3: Discipline Specific Discourse

<p><b>Significance</b></p> <p>The most significant event/person was ___ because _____ is significant because.....            _____ 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><b>Evidence</b></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>
<p><b>Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>_____ happened because...</p> <p>_____ influenced _____ by</p> <p>The implications of _____ on _____ were...            _____ responsible for _____</p> <p>The impact of _____ on _____ was....</p> <p>The role _____ played in _____ was ...            _____ contributed to _____</p> <p>The factors that contributed to _____ were</p>	<p><b>Perspective</b></p> <p>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 _____.</p>
<p><b>Continuity and Change</b></p> <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><b>Judgment</b></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 _____.            _____ advanced or hurt _____.            _____ support the need for _____.            _____ did/did not handle _____ effectively because.....</p>