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..
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…
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…..	**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, ___.	**Others:**

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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
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 ……
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 …..	**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	**Evidence**
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 ……	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….
Cause and Effect	**Perspective**
_____ 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	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 _____.
Continuity and Change	**Judgment**
_____ 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	_____ 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…….