Sentence Frames for Academic Conversation

Expressing an Opinion

- I think/believe that…
- In my opinion…
- It seems to me that…
- Based on _____, I can infer that…
- One of the main reasons I believe…

Supporting an Argument

- My claim is supported by…
- This is further evidenced by the fact that…
- The research says…
- According to _____ (cite source)…

Clarifying

- Could you explain your argument one more time?
- Is it your position that…
- To be clear, you're saying that…
- I'm confused when you say _____, could you elaborate?
- Would you mind repeating that?
- I am trying to understand your thinking, can you explain more.

Paraphrasing

- Put another way, you're saying…
- So you're saying that…
- I hear you saying that…
- Is it fair to say that you believe…

Disagree/Counter Argument

- I disagree because…
- I don't think your statement/argument is correct because…
- I hear what you are saying, but wouldn't that also mean…?
- Yes, but it's also true that…
- I understand your argument, but if that is the case, then…
- Another way to look at it is…

Challenging Ideas

- How did you reach your conclusion?
- What makes you think that?
- However, couldn't you also say…?
- It could also be argued that…

Agree/Build Upon an Idea

- I agree with what _____ said because…
- Another example is…
- I'd like to add something. I would say that…
- I hadn't thought of it like that. You now have me thinking/wondering…
- You bring up an excellent point. I wonder…
- I thought about that also, and I'm wondering why…

Acknowledging Ideas

- My idea is similar to _____ because…
- I agree with the point that _____ made because…
- You made a good point when you said…
- As _____ already mentioned,…
- That's how I see it too, because…
- I see what you're saying. That reminds me of…
- You bring up an interesting point, I also think…