

# Sentence Starters for Socratic Seminars - Level 1

## Clarifying

- So do you mean \_\_\_\_\_?
- What did you mean when you said?
- Could you give an example of that?

## Probing for Higher Level Thinking

- What examples do you have of \_\_\_\_\_?
- How does this idea connect to \_\_\_\_\_?

## Building on What Others Say

- That is an interesting point
- I agree with what \_\_\_\_\_ said because

## Express Your Ideas

- I think/believe...
- In my opinion...
- I argue that \_\_\_\_\_

## Interrupting

- Excuse me, but... (I don't understand)
- Sorry for interrupting, but... (I missed what you said)

## **Disagreeing**

- I see it another way. I think
- Another way to look at this is...

## **Inviting Others into the Dialogue**

- Does anyone agree/disagree?
- (name) what do you think?
- We haven't heard from many people in the group.  
Could someone new offer an idea?

## **Offering a Suggestion/Redirecting the Seminar**

- What if we
  - Go back to the questions
  - Go back to the text
- Let's look at the original question
- We seem to be having a debate instead of a dialogue,  
can we...?

## Sentence Starters for Socratic Seminars - Level 2

### Clarifying

- Could you clarify what (definition/idea) means?
- I think what \_\_\_\_\_ is trying to say is...
- Let me see if I understand. Do you mean \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?

### Probing for Higher Level Thinking

- How is the idea you shared connect to \_\_\_\_\_?
- What evidence do you have to support your idea?
- Where in the text can we find support for that idea?
- If \_\_\_\_\_ is true, then \_\_\_\_\_?
- Why is your idea important?

### Building on What Others Say

- Another way to look at this is \_\_\_\_\_
- I hadn't thought of that before. You make me wonder if...?
- That's an interesting idea.
  - I wonder...
  - I think...
  - Do you think...
- Based on the ideas from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, it seems like...
- I thought about that also and I'm wondering why...?

## **Express Your Ideas**

- My claim is \_\_\_\_\_ because
- This evidence suggests...
- When we break down the passage, we see that ...
- On pg \_\_\_\_\_ it clearly shows ...

## **Interrupting**

- May I interrupt for a moment?
- May I add something here?

## **Disagreeing**

- My idea is slightly different from yours. You said \_\_\_\_\_ but I believe \_\_\_\_\_
- Another interpretation of the passage could be \_\_\_\_\_ because
- While it may be true that \_\_\_\_\_, I believe \_\_\_\_\_

## **Inviting Others into the Dialogue**

- What different conclusions do you have?
- Who has another idea/question/interpretation?
- What gaps do you see in my reasoning?

## **Offering a Suggestion/Redirecting the Seminar**

- Who has another perspective to offer that will help us re-focus the conversation?