

Tip: Class/Group Discussion sentence starters (use these to help you contribute to discussion).

Agreeing

- "I agree with ____ because ____."
- "I like what ____ said because ____."
- "I agree with ____; but on the other hand, ____."

Disagreeing

- "I disagree with ____ because ____."
- "I'm not sure I agree with what ____ said because ____."
- "I can see that ____; however, I disagree with (or can't see) ____."

Clarifying

- "Could you please repeat that for me?"
- Paraphrase what you heard and ask, "Could you explain a bit more, please?"
- "I'm not sure I understood you when you said ____."
- "Could you say more about that?"
- "What's your evidence?"

Confirmation

- "I think ____."
- "I believe ____."

Confusion

- "I don't understand ____."
- "I am confused about ____."

Extension

- "I was thinking about what ____ said, and I was wondering what if ____."
- "This makes me think ____."
- "I want to know more about ____."
- "Now I am wondering ____."
- "Can you tell me more about ____?"

A few other useful lists for discussion starters...

[Science Penguin](#)
[TeachThought](#)

And specifically for [Socratic Seminars](#)

Expressing an Opinion

I think/believe that ...
It seems to me that ...
In my opinion ...

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean?
Will you explain that again?
I have a question about that.

Soliciting a Response

What do you think?
We haven't heard from you yet.
Do you agree?
What answer did you get?

Reporting a partner's idea

_____ indicated that ...
_____ clarified that ...
_____ pointed out to me that ...
_____ emphasized that ...

Predicting

I guess/predict/imagine that ...
Based on ..., I infer that ...
I hypothesize that ...

Paraphrasing

So you are saying that ...
In other words, you think ...
What I hear you saying is ...

Acknowledging Ideas

My idea is similar to/related to _____'s idea.
I agree with (a person) that ...
My idea builds upon _____'s idea.

Partner and Group Reporting

We decided/agreed that ...
We concluded that ...
Our group sees it differently.
We had a different approach