

Academic Discourse Sentence Starters – Secondary Grades

<p>Unpacking Your Thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think/believe...because... • It seems to me that ____ because_____. • My partner/group and I determined that ____ because _____. • I/We concluded that ____ because _____. • My perspective is ____ because _____. • I approached it by ____ because _____. • In my opinion ____ because_____. 	<p>Paraphrasing Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I understand you correctly, your opinion is _____. • Let me see if I have this right. You think/believe _____. • In other words, you are saying _____. • So, you are recommending that _____. • In other words, you think/believe/feel that _____. • So your opinion is _____. 	<p>Affirming Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree that _____. • I see what you mean by _____. • Now I understand your perspective on _____. • I share your point of view on _____. • My thinking is similar to yours because _____. • Your explanation helped me understand _____. • I noticed that _____. 	<p>Asking For Clarification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a question about ____. • I wonder about _____. • Can you say more about ____? • What do you mean by ____? • Will you explain ____ again? • I don't quite understand _____? • Could you elaborate on ____? • Would you mind explaining that in another way?
<p>Comparing Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I went about it somewhat differently..... • I agree with ____, but I don't agree with ____ because _____. • My perspective is similar to ____'s in that _____. • You might consider trying _____. • My idea builds upon ____'s. • Have your thought about_____? 	<p>Critiquing Others' Reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What evidence do you have that supports your claim of _____? • It doesn't appear that you have sufficient evidence to claim _____. • I don't believe your argument is viable because _____. • Could you please give me an example to support your idea/claim? • There was no proof when you said, "_____" so please elaborate on _____. 	<p>Drawing Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on _____, my hypothesis/conjecture is _____. • I can conclude _____ because _____. • I predict ____ because ____. • The evidence that supports my conclusion is _____. • My argument is viable because _____. • I can justify my conclusion by _____. • Upon analysis of the text, I can conclude _____ because_____. 	<p>Interjecting an Idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May I say something? • May I add an idea? <p>Holding the Floor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As I was saying..... • What I was trying to express was _____. • If I could finish my thought... • I would like to complete my thought please.