Academic Discourse Sentence Starters – Secondary Grades

Unpacking Your Thinking	Paraphrasing Contributions	Affirming Contributions	Asking For Clarification
- 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 _____.	- 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 _____.	- 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 _____.	- 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?
Comparing Contributions	**Critiquing Others' Reasoning**	**Drawing Conclusions**	**Interjecting an Idea**
- 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_____?	- 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 _____.	- 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_____.	- May I say something? - May I add an idea? **Holding the Floor** - 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.