

Civil Discourse Sentence Stems & Discussion Support

Use these sentence starters during classroom discussions. They are designed to help you share your ideas, ask questions, respond respectfully, and use evidence.

Sharing Your Opinion

- I think... because...
- In my opinion...
- I believe... since...
- My first thought is...
- One reason I think this is...

Agreeing Respectfully

- I agree with because...
- I agree, and I would like to add...
- I had the same idea because...
- That's a good point because...

Disagreeing Respectfully

- I respectfully disagree because...
- I see your point, but...
- Another perspective might be...
- I have a different idea because...
- I understand your opinion; however...

Asking for Clarification

- Can you explain what you mean by...?
- Could you give an example?
- I Could you help me understand...?

Building on Someone Else's Idea

- Building on your idea...
- That connects to...
- This reminds me of...
- I would like to build on what said...
- Another example is...

Using Evidence

- According to the text...
- One piece of evidence is...
- The author states...
- I noticed that...
- The data shows...

Inviting Others to Participate

- What do you think?
- I'd like to hear your opinion.
- Would you like to add something?
- Does anyone have another idea?

Preparing Before You Speak

- My opinion is...
- My evidence is...
- One question I still have is...
- One connection I made is..

Remember...

- It's okay to think or take notes in your home language first.
- Focus on sharing your ideas—your thinking is more important than perfect English.
- Listen respectfully, ask questions, and build on each other's ideas.