Language for Academic Discussions

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| Symbol for Conversation Skill | Ways to Spark Discussion | Ways to Respond to Discussion |
| ELABORATE & CLARIFY | * Can you elaborate on …?
* What do you mean by …?
* Can you tell me more about …?
* What makes you think that …?
* Can you clarify the part about …?
* Can you be more specific?
* How so?
* I’d like to hear more about …
* How does that connect to …?
* I wonder if …
* I’m a little confused about …
 | * I think it means that …
* In other words …
* I believe that …
* Another way to think about it is …
* It is important because …
* A connection is …
* It’s similar to when …
* It’s similar to \_\_\_\_\_ because …
* It’s a lot like …
* Visualize …
* To put it simply …
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| SUPPORT IDEAS with EXAMPLES**3**Five fingers silhouette Free Icon**4****2****5****1** | * Can you give an example from the text?
* Can you show me where it says that?
* What are examples from other texts?
* What is a real-world example?
* What is an example from your life?
* What is the evidence for that?
* Like what?
* What does that look like?
* Why is that a good example?
* Why do you say that?
* What would illustrate that?
 | * For example …
* In the text, it says that …
* One case showed that …
* An example from my life is …
* For instance …
* According to …
* An illustration of this could be …
* \_\_\_\_\_ stated that …
* In this situation …
* To demonstrate …
* In fact …
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| BUILD ON or CHALLENGE an IDEAImage result for brick wall clip art | * What do you think about the idea that …?
* Can you add to that idea?
* Do you agree?
* What are other ideas?
* How does that idea connect to the idea that …?
* I’m not sure if this is relevant, but …
* How can we bring this back to the question of …?
* What are the pros?
* What are the cons?
* What haven’t we thought about?
 | * I would add that …
* Expanding on that point, I think …
* I want to follow up on your idea …
* Then again, I think that …
* Another way to look at this is …
* Yet, I wonder also if …
* If \_\_\_\_\_ ,then \_\_\_\_\_ .
* Your idea makes me wonder if …
* I agree (or disagree), and here’s why …
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| PARAPHRASE | * I’m not sure that was clear …
* How can we relate what was said to the topic?
* What do we know so far?
* What is your take on what I said?
* Does this makes sense?
* What are you hearing?
* Is there another way to say this?
* How would \_\_\_\_\_ say this?
* What are the key words?
* What is a new way of looking at …?
 | * So, you’re saying that …
* Let me see if I understand you …
* Am I hearing you say that …?
* In a nutshell, you are saying that …
* In other words …
* What I am hearing is …
* Essentially, you think that …
* It sounds like you’re saying that …
* I think you mean that …
* It makes sense that …
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| SYNTHESIZE CONVERSATIONImage result for brick tower clip art | * What have we discussed so far?
* How should we synthesize what we have talked about?
* How can we bring this all together?
* What can we agree upon?
* What main points can we share?
* What was our original question?
* What key idea(s) can we take away?
* What are our next steps in the process?
* What can we learn from …?
* What can we now do that we couldn’t before?
 | * We can say that …
* The main point/theme could be …
* As a result of this discussion, …
* We can now …
* The evidence suggests that …
* The gist of this conversation is…
* If we could sum up this discussion in one word it would be …
* Three main takeaways are …
* Now, I wonder if …
* Now that we know \_\_\_, we can …
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