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 … |
| 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 … |
| BUILD ON or CHALLENGE an IDEA  Image 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 … |
| 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 … |
| SYNTHESIZE CONVERSATION  Image 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 … |