

## Academic Discourse Sentence Starters – Secondary Grades

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