

# Sentence Stems for Academic Discourse

## Tier 1: Students clarify their own thoughts

To introduce evidence:

- According to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- The author states that \_\_\_\_\_
- An example of \_\_\_\_\_ would be \_\_\_\_\_

To explain evidence:

- \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
- It is clear that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
- Since \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ illustrates \_\_\_\_\_
- Because of \_\_\_\_\_, we can assume \_\_\_\_\_

To share an opinion:

- I like how the author uses \_\_\_\_\_ to show \_\_\_\_\_
- I like/don't like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
- My opinion is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

## Tier 2: Students engage with the thinking of others

To build on a classmate's ideas:

- Another example is \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to add something. I would say that \_\_\_\_\_
- My idea is related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea. I think \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to add that \_\_\_\_\_

To question/clarify to fully understand classmates' ideas:

- What I think you are saying is \_\_\_\_\_. Is that correct?
- Can you tell me more about \_\_\_\_\_?
- What do you mean by \_\_\_\_\_?
- What evidence do you have to support \_\_\_\_\_?
- I did not understand \_\_\_\_\_. Can you explain what you mean?

## Tier 3: Students critique and analyze the reasoning of others

To agree or disagree with a classmate's ideas:

- I agree because \_\_\_\_\_
- I agree with \_\_\_\_\_, and in addition \_\_\_\_\_
- I disagree with \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
- That makes sense because \_\_\_\_\_
- That's a good point, but I think \_\_\_\_\_

To compare and contrast the effectiveness of different arguments:

- Similar to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- In contrast to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- While \_\_\_\_\_ shows \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ shows \_\_\_\_\_

To revise thinking based on others' arguments:

- I want to change my idea because \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to revise my thinking. I think \_\_\_\_\_
- At first, I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_