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 _____

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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 _____

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