

To state your opinion:

- My idea is that...
- In my opinion...
- It seems to me that...
- I think...
- I infer...
- I observe...
- I imagine...
- I suggest...
- I guess or hypothesize...
- I predict...

To disagree:

- I disagree because...
- I don't really agree because...
- I have another idea...
- I don't quite agree...
- I disagree with you entirely...
- My idea is slightly different...
- I am not sure I agree with you 100%...
- I hear what you are saying, but I see it differently...
- I have a different answer

To paraphrase or repeat another way:

- So you think/believe that...
- So you are saying that...
- In other words, you believe that...
- I hear you saying that...
- You mean to say that...
- Let me see if I understand correctly, you are suggesting that...
- Let me see if I've got this right, you are saying that...
- If I understand you correctly, you...
- So your opinion is...
- What I hear you saying is...
- You seem to be suggesting that...

To share your group's ideas:

- We agreed that...
- We decided that...
- We concluded that...
- We have different opinions... Some of us believe that...Others believe that...
- We came up with several different ideas/solutions/answers...
- Our group has diverse ideas...
- We think that...
- We could not agree about...
- We believe that...

To acknowledge an idea (or give credit to another person):

- My idea is similar to _____ idea...
- My idea is related to _____ idea...
- _____ and I have a similar perspective...
- Like _____, I believe that...
- I agree with _____ that...
- As _____ already pointed out...

To simply agree:

- I also agree with what _____ said.
- I think _____ is right about that.
- _____ has an interesting idea that appeals to me.
- I hadn't thought of _____'s idea, but I like it.

To clarify what you have heard:

- Will you please repeat that word/sentence/opinion?
- Will you please repeat the question?
- Will you please explain that again?
- Can you explain that idea another way?
- Can you give me a second example?
- Can you tell me more about that?
- I have a question about that.
- I don't understand that word/sentence/remark.

To share another person's ideas with others:

- _____ explained to me that...
- _____ mentioned that...
- _____ pointed out that
- _____ learned that...
- _____ discovered that...
- _____ had heard that...
- _____ shared with me that...
- _____ would like to know more about...

To summarize learning:

- I learned that...
- I observed...
- I still need further information about...
- I would like more time to consider...
- I discovered...
- I realized...
- I now wonder...
- I was surprised to learn...

I agree with _____ because _____.

Agree

I like what _____ said because _____.

Agree

I agree with because _____; then on the other hand _____.

Agree

I disagree with _____ because _____.

Disagree

Yes, that is true, but it is also true that _____.

Disagree

I see what you're saying, but I think that _____.

Disagree

In other words _____.

Clarify

Let me try to explain this again _____.

Clarify

Could you say that in another way?

Clarify

I was thinking about what _____ said, and I was wondering what if _____.

Extension

Now I am wondering _____.

Extension

This makes me think _____.

Extension

I don't understand _____.

Confusion

I am confused about _____.

Confusion

I have a question about _____.

Confusion

We agreed that _____.

Groups Ideas

We have different opinions.
Some of us believe that _____
Others believe that _____

Group's Ideas

Our group has similar ideas to _____ group, but we also believe that _____.

Group's Ideas

I learned _____.

Summarize

I observed _____.

Summarize

To sum it up, _____.

Summarize

Let me see if I've got this right, you are saying that _____.

Paraphrase

If I understand you correctly, you _____.

Paraphrase

In your opinion then, _____.

Paraphrase

26 Sentence Stems For Higher-Level Discussion In The Classroom

Clarifying

Could you give me your thesis?

Is it your position that...

To be clear, you're saying that...

I'm confused when you say Z,
Can you elaborate?

Paraphrasing

Put another way, you're saying...

So you're saying that...

Is it fair to say that you believe...

I hear you saying that...

Agreeing

I agree with Y because...

Z's point about X was important because...

The evidence for Z is overwhelming
when you consider that...

X and I are coming from the same position.

Despite disagreeing about Y,
I agree with Z that...

Disagreeing

I see it differently because...

The evidence I've seen suggests
something different.

Some of that is fact, but some of
it is opinion as well.

I agree that Y, but we also have
to consider that...

We see Z differently.

Building On

Y mentioned that...

Yes--and furthermore...

The author's claim that Z is
interesting because...

Adding to what X said,...

If we change X's position just a little,
we can see that...

Summarizing

Overall, what I'm trying to say is...

My whole point in one sentence is...

More than anything else, I believe that...



TeachThought. Learn better

Tip: Class/Group Discussion sentence starters (use these to help you contribute to discussion).

Agreeing

- "I agree with ____ because ____."
- "I like what ____ said because ____."
- "I agree with ____; but on the other hand, ____."

Disagreeing

- "I disagree with ____ because ____."
- "I'm not sure I agree with what ____ said because ____."
- "I can see that ____; however, I disagree with (or can't see) ____."

Clarifying

- "Could you please repeat that for me?"
- Paraphrase what you heard and ask, "Could you explain a bit more, please?"
- "I'm not sure I understood you when you said ____."
- "Could you say more about that?"
- "What's your evidence?"

Confirmation

- "I think ____."
- "I believe ____."

Confusion

- "I don't understand ____."
- "I am confused about ____."

Extension

- "I was thinking about what ____ said, and I was wondering what if ____."
- "This makes me think ____."
- "I want to know more about ____."
- "Now I am wondering ____."
- "Can you tell me more about ____?"

A few other useful lists for discussion starters...

[Science Penguin](#)
[TeachThought](#)

And specifically for **Socratic Seminars**

Expressing an Opinion

I think/believe that ...
It seems to me that ...
In my opinion ...

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean?
Will you explain that again?
I have a question about that.

Soliciting a Response

What do you think?
We haven't heard from you yet.
Do you agree?
What answer did you get?

Reporting a partner's idea

_____ indicated that ...
_____ clarified that ...
_____ pointed out to me that ...
_____ emphasized that ...

Predicting

I guess/predict/imagine that ...
Based on ..., I infer that ...
I hypothesize that ...

Paraphrasing

So you are saying that ...
In other words, you think ...
What I hear you saying is ...

Acknowledging Ideas

My idea is similar to/related to
_____ 's idea.
I agree with (a person) that ...
My idea builds upon _____ 's idea.

Partner and Group Reporting

We decided/agreed that ...
We concluded that ...
Our group sees it differently.
We had a different approach