

Politely Disagreeing:

- * I don't quite agree with your point about ...
- * I have another way of looking at this.
- * My idea is slightly different.
- * Have you thought about ...?
- * I went about it somewhat differently.

Offering a Suggestion:

- * What if you/we ...?
- * Maybe you/we could ... ?
- * Here's something that we/you might try ...

Paraphrasing:

- * If I understand you correctly, you think ...
- * Let me see if I got this right. You are saying ...
- * So, your opinion is ...
- * In other words, you think ...
- * In other words, you feel ...
- * In other words, you believe ...
- * What I'm hearing you say is ...

Interrupting:

- * Excuse me, but ...
- * I am sorry for interrupting, but ...
- * May I interrupt for a moment?

Complimenting:

- * I like the way you ...
- * This will be helpful to me, because ...
- * Now I understand better, because ...
- * Thank you for explaining.

Discussion Sentence Starters for Students

Name: _____

Thanks to:

Teaching American History Grant Teachers
Teresa Burke - Howe Avenue School
Christine Teachout - Howe Avenue School
Pam Tindall - UC Davis

Expressing an Opinion:

- * I think ...
- * I believe ...
- * I predict ...
- * I imagine ...
- * In my opinion ...
- * It seems to me that ...
- * Not everyone will agree with me, but ...

Asking for Clarification:

- * I have a question about ...
- * In other words, are you saying ...?
- * So you think/feel/believe that ...
- * Could you please
 - > repeat that?
 - > explain what ____ means?
 - > give me an example?
 - > say more about that?
 - > explain in more detail?
- * Would you mind
 - > defining _____?
 - > repeating that a little slower?
 - > explaining that in another way?
- * I have a question about ...
- * I don't think I understand that
 - > idea / word / remark / question.
- * How is that different from ...
- * How is that the same as ...