

# Socratic Seminar Sentence Starters

Directions: During any Socratic seminar or discussion that we have in class, you are expected to use academic language when you speak. In turn, you also expected to apply good listening skills during the activity.

Please utilize the following sentence frames while you speak in order to incorporate strong academic language structures into your natural vocabulary and deepen the level of intellectual discussion in an academic setting.

## Sentence Frames for Clarification:

- \_\_\_\_\_, could you please rephrase that?
- I did not understand \_\_\_\_\_, could you repeat that, please?
- *I did not understand \_\_\_\_\_, do you mean \_\_\_\_\_? (here you rephrase what you think the group member said and wait for clarification)*
- It's not quite clear. Can you explain what you said about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Can you say more about that?
- In other words, are you saying \_\_\_\_\_?
- I have a question about \_\_\_\_\_. State your question.

## Sentence Frame for changing the subject:

- Moving on to \_\_\_\_\_
- Does anyone have any final comments to add about \_\_\_\_\_ or shall we move on to a new subject?

## Sentence Frames for affirming an idea and adding to it:

- My idea is related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea \_\_\_\_\_.
- I really liked \_\_\_\_\_'s idea about \_\_\_\_\_.
- I agree with \_\_\_\_\_. Also, \_\_\_\_\_.
- My idea build's on \_\_\_\_\_'s idea. I \_\_\_\_\_.

## Presenting a different angle on a subject:

- While I can see why you believe this, I see this differently. In my opinion \_\_\_\_\_.
- I understand where you are coming from, but I see it a bit differently. From my perspective, \_\_\_\_\_.
- That's a valid point, but I feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_.
- I do agree with the part about \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Expressing your opinion:**

- I believe that \_\_\_\_\_.
- In my opinion \_\_\_\_\_.
- I feel that \_\_\_\_\_.
- I think that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- To me, it seems obvious that \_\_\_\_\_.