

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 are 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:

- I think we've exhausted the topic of _____, can we move on to _____?
- 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 builds 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 _____.