Prompting Student Responses

Some students don't know what to say during a discussion. Help students organize their thoughts with sentence starters.

Discussion Behaviors	Prompts
Agreeing	• I agree with… because… • Z's point about X was important because… • X and I are coming from the same position… • Despite disagreeing about Y, I agree with Z that… • I like the way you explained…
Disagreeing (Politely)	• I see it differently because… • The evidence I've seen suggests something different… • I agree with Y, but we also have to consider that… • I've got a different take on that issue… • I am not sure I agree with… because…
Building On / Elaborate	• Tell me more how… • Another example / a better example would be… • Y mentioned that… further more / however… • Adding to what X said… • As X pointed out…. • How would you compare / contrast… • __ and __ are similar / different because… • I would like to add that… • I would like to add on to what… said about… • Another way to look at…. is… • What would you change…
Making a Connection	• This idea reminds me of… • This idea is similar / different to… • I also experienced something similar to…
Clarification	• Did I understand that you meant… • Can you explain further… • I'm not sure "I'm not sure what you mean… can you give a concrete example… • At first I thought… however, now I have come to realize… because… • The part about… did not make sense.. because… • Can you compare / contrast your answer with mine… • How could you explain it differently… • What would happen if… • Now I understand because…

Providing Evidence	- There are three things that led me to this conclusion. They are… - Based on the author… I believe that… - What examples can you provide - Can you provide evidence on… - What facts would you select to show… - The relationship between X and Y is… - How would you prove…
Ask a Question	- What does this mean… can you specify what you mean by… - Why did you say… - Why do you think… - Who is… - Where can I find that… - How do you know that… - How did you come to know that… - Which is more important…
Application / Synthesis	- How would you use… - How would you solve… using what you have learned… - How would you organize… to show… - What approach would you use to… - How would you apply what you learned to develop… - What other ways… - How would you construct a model for… - In what situation would you…
Summarizing	- Overall, what I'm trying to say is… - My point in one sentence is… - If… then… - The factors that are most important are… because… - I learned that... when… __ is important because… - The conclusion I can draw is… - My recommendations are…
Make a Prediction	- I think that… will happen because… - I don't think that… will happen because… - Since this happened, then what if… - Since this happened… another thing that could happen next is…