

Conversation Stems¹

Clarifying

- Is it your position that...
- To be clear, you're saying that...
- I'm confused when you say X. 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 ___ because...
- ___'s point about ___ was important because...
- The reasons you provided support what I am saying because...
- You and I are coming from the same position.

Disagreeing

- I see it differently because...
- The reasons and details ___ provided better support ___ because...
- There is no evidence to suggest that is true.
- I agree that ___, but we also have to consider that...
- We see ___ differently.

Elaborating

- ___ mentioned that...
- Yes, and furthermore...
- Adding to what you said,...
- I agree, and I want to add that...

Summarizing

- Overall, what I'm trying to say is...
- My whole point in one sentence is...
- More than anything else, I believe that...
- Ultimately, my goal is to demonstrate that...

¹ Adapted from te@chthought at <http://www.teachthought.com/learning/sentence-stems-higher-level-conversation-classroom/>