

Sentence Starters for Academic Discourse

If you feel like saying this,		Then instead say this....
<u>Expressing an Opinion</u>		<u>Expressing an Opinion</u>
That's stupid... You're wrong... No, the answer is...		I think/believe that... In my opinion Based on my experience, I think...
<u>Asking for Clarification</u>		<u>Asking for Clarification</u>
Huh? What? Whadda we do?		What do you mean? Will you explain that again? I have a question about that. I'm not clear on the directions, could you please repeat...
<u>Paraphrasing</u>		<u>Paraphrasing</u>
He said... She already said it.		So you are saying that... In other words, you think... What I hear you saying is...
<u>Acknowledging Ideas</u>		<u>Acknowledging Ideas</u>
Mine's the same. She stole my idea. Nothing. IDK		My idea is similar to/related to _____'s idea. I agree with (a person) that... My idea build upon _____' idea.
<u>Disagreeing</u>		<u>Disagreeing</u>
You're wrong. That's not right. Shut up, the answer is...		I don't agree with you because... I arrived at a different conclusion because... I see it another way...
<u>Agreeing and Affirming</u>		<u>Agreeing and Affirming</u>
Yep Uh-huh		That's an interesting idea. I hadn't thought of that. I see what you mean.

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If you feel like saying this,		Then instead say this....
<u>Predicting</u>		<u>Predicting</u>
Maybe... I guess that...		<i>I predict/imagine that...</i> <i>Based on _____, I infer that...</i> <i>I hypothesize that...</i>
<u>Soliciting a Response</u>		<u>Soliciting a Response</u>
Jose hasn't gone yet. Whaddaya think? You never talk!		<i>What do you think?</i> <i>We haven't heard from you yet.</i> <i>Do you agree?</i> <i>What conclusion did you draw?</i>
<u>Reporting a Partner's Idea</u>		<u>Reporting a Partner's Idea</u>
She said... He said...		<i>_____ indicated that...</i> <i>_____ point out to me that...</i> <i>_____ emphasized that...</i> <i>_____ concluded that...</i>
<u>Reporting a Group's Idea</u>		<u>Reporting a Group's Idea</u>
They said... We said...		<i>We decided/agreed that...</i> <i>We concluded that...</i> <i>Our group sees it differently.</i> <i>We had a different approach.</i>
<u>Offering a Suggestion</u>		<u>Offering a Suggestion</u>
You should... That's stupid. I did it... You're wrong. You need to...		<i>Maybe we could...</i> <i>What if we...</i> <i>Here's something we might try.</i>
<u>Holding the Floor</u>		<u>Holding the Floor</u>
Shut up. It's my turn. I wanna talk.		<i>As I was saying, ...</i> <i>If I could finish my thought...</i> <i>What I was trying to say was...</i>