

Student Discussion Guide

Ground Rules for Class Discussion

1. Be prepared to share your idea when instructed to do so, first with your partner and next with the class.
2. No blurting (ever) or hand raising (until I ask for volunteers).
3. Use the assigned sentence starter to share your idea.
4. Use your public discussion voice to share your idea: two times slower and three times louder than conversation.
5. Listen attentively while classmates are sharing and jot down new ideas.
6. If your idea is similar to someone else's, acknowledge your classmate's contribution before sharing your idea.

Language Class Discussion Sentence Starters

Expressing an Opinion

I think/believe that . . .

In my opinion . . .

Based on my experience, I think . . .

Predicting

I predict/imagine that . . .

Based on . . ., I infer that . . .

I hypothesize that . . .

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean?

Will you explain that again?

I have a question about that.

Paraphrasing

So you are saying that . . .

In other words, you think . . .

What I hear you saying is . . .

SUHSD/Special Services (msg)

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Soliciting a Response

What do you think?

We haven't heard from you yet.

Do you agree?

What answer did you get?

Acknowledging Ideas

My idea is similar to/related to

I agree with (a person) that . . .

My idea builds upon ____'s idea.

Reporting a Partner's Idea

____ indicated that . . .

____ pointed out to me that . . .

____ emphasized that . . .

____ concluded that . . .

Reporting a Group's Idea

We decided/agreed that . . .

We concluded that . . .

Our group sees it differently.

We had a different approach.

Disagreeing

I don't agree with you because . . .

I got a different answer than you.

I see it another way.

Offering a Suggestion

Maybe we could . . .

What if we . . .

Here's something we might try.

Affirming

That's an interesting idea.

I hadn't thought of that.

I see what you mean.

Holding the Floor

As I was saying, . . .

If I could finish my thought . . .

What I was trying to say was . . .

(adapted from Kate Kinsella 8/07)