

Figure 8.2: Classroom Discussion Statement and Question Stems

Statement Stems	Question Stems
Clarifying	
<p>To be clear, you're saying that _____.</p> <p>I'm confused when you say _____. Can you elaborate?</p> <p>So, you're saying that _____.</p> <p>Is it fair to say that you believe _____?</p> <p>I hear you saying that _____.</p>	<p>Can you give us an example of _____?</p> <p>Where in the story _____?</p> <p>What would be a good reason for _____?</p> <p>What is some evidence for _____?</p> <p>That's a good point. What about _____?</p> <p>What do you mean by _____?</p> <p>Will you explain _____ again?</p> <p>I have a question about _____?</p>
Agreeing	
<p>I agree because _____.</p> <p>Her point about _____ was important because _____.</p> <p>The evidence for _____ is overwhelming when you consider _____.</p> <p>She and I are coming from the same position about _____.</p> <p>Despite disagreeing about _____, I agree with him that _____.</p> <p>I agree with _____ that _____.</p> <p>I share your point of view about _____.</p> <p>My thinking is similar in that _____.</p>	<p>What evidence supports your perspective or ideas?</p> <p>What are some other examples?</p>
Disagreeing	
<p>I see it differently because _____.</p> <p>The evidence I've seen suggests something different than _____.</p> <p>Some of _____ is fact, but some of it is opinion as well.</p> <p>I agree that _____, but we also have to consider that _____.</p> <p>We see _____ differently because _____.</p> <p>I disagree a little. To me _____.</p>	<p>Why do you think _____?</p> <p>What evidence disputes your perspective or ideas?</p> <p>What is another way to think about _____?</p>

continued →

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Summarizing	
Overall, what I'm trying to say is _____.	So what you are saying is that _____?
My whole point in one sentence is _____.	If I understand you correctly, your opinion is that _____.
Building On	
They mentioned that _____.	What do you think?
Yes—and furthermore, _____.	What are your thoughts?
The author's claim that _____ is interesting because _____.	We haven't heard from you yet; do you agree?
Adding to what he said _____.	
If we change her position just a little, we can see that _____.	

Source: Adapted from Heick, T. (2018, April 8). 26 sentence stems for higher-level conversation in the classroom. Accessed at www.teachthought.com/critical-thinking/sentence-stems-higher-level-conversation-classroom on September 6, 2018.