



Discussions:

Expectations & Comment Stems to Get You Started!

Expectations:

In each of your courses, your teachers post discussion questions. Our expectations for your responses and interactions during discussions are as follows:

- Posts should be clear and understandable
- Posts should stick to the topic and answer the posted questions
- Posts should be more than “I agree.” If you agree (or disagree!), explain why.
 - If someone’s comment made you think of a related topic or shared something that you could connect to, explain.
 - Posts should be polite and positive!

Getting Started When Posting and Replying

Sometimes, we get stuck when we respond or reply on a discussion thread. Feel free to use any of the stems below, or another like it, to help you get your thoughts started.

Be sure to choose the one that best fits the response you’re looking for.



<p><u>Agreeing:</u> “I agree with you because _____.” “I like what you said here because _____.” “I agree with you; but on the other hand, _____.”</p>	<p><u>Confirmation:</u> “I think _____ because _____.” “I believe _____ because _____.”</p>
<p><u>Disagreeing:</u> “I disagree with you because _____.” “I’m not sure I agree with what you said here because _____.” “I can see your point about _____; however I disagree with _____.”</p>	<p><u>Confusion:</u> “I don’t understand _____ about _____.” “I understand _____ but am confused about _____.”</p>
<p><u>Clarifying:</u> “Could you please explain more about what you mean?” “Can you explain the evidence or support to back up your response?”</p>	<p><u>Extension:</u> “I was thinking about what you said here, and I was wondering if _____.” “This response makes me think about _____.”</p>

All information in this document is derived from Mr. Duklewski’s Discussion expectations & norms, as well as from: http://msbacon.com/documents/ELL_Sentence_Stems.pdf