Say What? Boosting Academic Talk in the Classroom

Sentence Starters and Conversation Frames

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| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * \_\_\_\_\_ happened because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. As a result, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. * In my opinion, \_\_\_\_\_ caused \_\_\_\_\_\_. | A: What happened?  B: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  A: Why did that happen?  B: It happened because… |

Cause / Effect:

Compare / Contrast:

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| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * They are the same because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. * They are different because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. * One thing that makes them similar is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. * One thing that makes them different is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. * \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the same because… / are different because… * On the other hand, they are different because \_\_\_\_\_\_. * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, however \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | A: How are \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ the same?  B: They are the same because…  A: How are \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ different?  B: They are different because… |

Agree/Disagree:

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| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * I agree with \_\_\_\_ because… * I disagree with \_\_\_\_ because… | A: Do you agree or disagree with \_\_\_\_\_?  B: I agree/disagree with \_\_\_\_.  A: Why do you agree/disagree?  B: I agree/disagree because \_\_\_\_\_. |

Elaborate:

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| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * I think… because… * One reason is… * Also… * Another reason is… | A: What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_\_? (Or, Do you think it is \_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_?)  B: I think…  A: Why do you think that?  B: One reason I think that is… |

Predict:

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| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * I predict that \_\_\_\_\_\_ because… * I think the \_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ because… * I think the \_\_\_\_\_ is going to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because… | A: What do you predict will happen?  B: I predict…  A: Why do you predict that?  B: I predict that because…  Alternative:  One reason I predict that is…  Another reason is… |

Sequence:

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| --- | --- |
| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * First… * Next… * Then… * After that… * Finally… | A: What happens first?  B: First…  A: What happens after that?  B: After that… |

Opinion:

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| Sentence Starter / Language Frame | Ask, Answer, Add |
| * My favorite \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. Also \_\_\_\_\_. * The most important \_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. * I think \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. * I like \_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. | A: What is your favorite \_\_\_\_\_?  B: My favorite \_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_.  A: Why is that your favorite?  B: It is my favorite because \_\_\_\_.  Alternative:  One reason is…  Another reason is…  Also… |