Say What? Boosting Academic Talk in the Classroom

Sentence Starters and Conversation Frames

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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… |