Oral

Academic Discussion Sentence Starters

Making a Comment:

- That is a good idea because…
- That is confusing because…
- I disagree with _____ because…

Expressing an Opinion:

- I think/believe that …
- It seems to me that ….
- In my opinion …

Making a Prediction:

- I think that _____ will happen because…
- I don't think that _____ will happen because…
- I wonder if…
- Since this happened, then what if…
- Based on …, I infer that ….

Clarifying Something:

- Now I understand _____ because…
- No, I think it means…
- I agree with _____ because…
- At first I thought _____, but now I think _____ because…
- What I hear you saying is…
- I don't understand _____, but I do understand _____ because…

Asking a Question:

- What did you mean when you said _____?
- Do you think that…?
- Why is that happening?
- What is happening?
- Why do you think that way?
- What led you to that conclusion?

Soliciting a Response:

- What do you think?
- We haven't heard from _____ yet.
- Do you agree?
- What answer did you get?

Making a Connection:

- This reminds me of…
- This is like _____ when…
- This is like _____, but different because…

Paraphrasing what someone else said:

- So you are saying that …
- In other words, you think …
- What I hear you saying is …

Acknowledging others ideas:

- My idea is similar to/related to _____'s idea that ….
- I agree with what _____ is saying …
- My idea builds upon _____'s idea that …