**Sentence Starters Handout**

**In order to create meaningful dialogue in the classroom, students can use these sentence starters to clarify their point. While these are not required, the sentence starters are a helpful tool for class discussion.**

**Clarifying**

1. Could you give me your thesis in one sentence?
2. Is it your position that…
3. To be clear, you’re saying that…
4. I’m confused when you say Z, Can you elaborate?

**Paraphrasing**

1. Put another way, you’re saying…
2. So you’re saying that…
3. Is it fair to say that you believe…
4. I hear you saying that…

**Agreeing**

1. I agree with Y because…
2. Z’s point about X was important because…
3. The evidence for Z is overwhelming when you consider that…
4. X and I are coming from the same position.
5. Despite disagreeing about Y, I agree with Z that…

**Disagreeing**

1. I see it differently because…
2. The evidence I’ve seen suggests something different.
3. Some of that is fact, but some of it is opinion as well.
4. I agree that Y, but we also have to consider that…
5. We see Z differently.

**Building On**

1. Y mentioned that…
2. Yes–and furthermore…
3. The author’s claim that Z is interesting because…
4. Adding to what X said,…
5. If we change Xs position just a little, we can see that…

**Summarizing**

1. Overall, what I’m trying to say is…
2. My whole point in one sentence is…
3. More than anything else, I believe that…