

GET THAT DISCUSSION GOING!



Clarifying Questions (I want more information)

- That's interesting, why do you think it?
- That's interesting, could you give us text evidence to support it?
- That is an interesting idea, could you tell us more about it?
- I have a question about what you said...
- What you said made me think of another question...
- Surface level questions: What / When / How / Who / Where / Tell me / Describe

Deeper Level Questions

- How did you feel about _____?
- What do you think caused _____?
- How would the story have been different if the author had not let _____ happen?
- What do you predict will happen next?
- Why do you think the author had _____ happen in the story?
- What role [or archetype] does _____ play in the story?
- What symbol do you see in the story, and what does it symbolize?
- If you could rewrite the story, what would you change?
- How would you describe the character, _____?
- What do you think about _____?

Adding and Agreeing (Compare things that are the same or similar)

- I would like to add to what you said!
- I agree with what you said because...
- What you said made me think of something else...
- I have a connection to what you said because...
- What you said made me predict that...
- What you said allowed me to visualize...

Disagreeing or contrasting

- I mostly agree with [speaker's] point that _____, **but** also think [different point].
- I would like to disagree with you because...
- I don't think I fully agree with you...
- I think of it differently....
- When I looked at it, I read it differently...

Cause and Effect

- What did you read that caused you to think that? (text evidence)
- When I read, _____ on page ____, it made me realize...
- You're comment allowed me to understand...

Changing your mind or adjusting your thinking

- I would like to change my (mind, answer, opinion, etc)
- Now that I've heard what you said, I think differently. Now I think _____ because _____

Take Responsibility for a Good Conversation

1	2	3	4
No one is listening, making eye contact, or responding to the members of the group	Some students are listening, making eye contact and responding to the members of the group	Most students are listening, making eye contact, and responding to the members of the group	All students are listening, making eye contact, and responding to all members of the group

I'm doing a lot of talking...How can I make room for my discussion partners? Staying silent yourself, and waiting patiently for your partners to respond will be important here.

- What do you think? [wait]
- Do any of you agree or disagree?
- What other ideas do you have?
- Who has a different point of view?
- How do you see this, [name]?
- What happened in the story that makes this question important?
- How does this question make you feel?
- How does this question compare with the last [one / two]?
- What question do you wish had been asked?

I want to say something...How can I jump in? Moving quickly without interrupting the speaker is the trick here.

- What you've said about _____ makes me think....
- I agree with what you're saying about _____; and I have another idea as well: _____.
- Can I add a thought here?
- Yes! And _____. [compare]
- Yes! But _____. [contrast]
- I'm not sure that I agree with you [when you say _____]. I think _____ [contrast]

I'm not joining in...How can I do my share? Finding ways to reconnect with the conversation even when I've lost the thread often requires asking a question first.

- Please help me understand what you meant when you said _____?
- I'm not sure what I think about _____. Sometimes I think _____, however I also think _____.
- I heard you say _____. What makes you think that? (or)
- During the time that you were talking, I was thinking _____.
- I'm sorry, but I tuned out just now. Could you please repeat what you just said?