

Academic English Sentence Starters for Writing and Speaking

Expressing and Opinion

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

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean?
Will you explain that again?
I have a question about that.

Soliciting a Response

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

Individual Reporting

_____ shared with me that...
_____ pointed out to me that...
_____ emphasized that...
_____ indicated that...

Disagreeing

I don't agree with you because...
I got a different answer than you.
I see it another way.

Affirming

That's an interesting idea.
I hadn't thought of that.
I see what you mean.

Predicting

I predict that...
I imagine that...
Based on...I infer that...
I hypothesize that...

Paraphrasing

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

Acknowledging Ideas

My idea is similar to _____'s idea
I agree with _____ that...
My idea builds upon _____'s idea

Partner/Group Reporting

We decided / agreed that...
We concluded that...
We had a different answer.
Our group sees it differently.

Offering a Suggestion

Maybe we could...
What if we...
Here's something we might try.

Holding the Floor

As I was saying,...
If I could finish my thought...
What I was trying to say was...