## Conversation Stems for Grades 6-8[1]

### If you want to express your ideas clearly...

| Listener Prompt | Speaker Response |
|---|---|
| • What do you think about ____?<br>• How did you answer __[the question]__? | |
| • What is the most important idea you are communicating?<br>• What is your main point? | • Overall what I'm trying to say is ____.<br>• My whole point in one sentence is ____. |

### If you want to make sure you are listening carefully and clearly understand the ideas presented...

| Listener Prompt | Speaker Response |
|---|---|
| • You said ____. Did I hear you correctly?<br>• I heard you say ____. Is that correct?<br>• Put another way, are you saying ____? | • Yes/no. I said ____. |
| • Tell me more about ____. or Say more about ____.<br>• I'm confused when you say __. Say more about that.<br>• Give me an example. | • Sure. I said __[restate what was said and add further explanation or examples]__.<br>• An example is ____ because __[explain why]__. |
| • Who can rephrase what X said? | • X said ____. |

### If you want to dig deeper and provide evidence to support your claims...

| Listener Prompt | Speaker Response |
|---|---|
| • What in the text makes you think so?<br>• How do you know? Why do you think that?<br>• Explain how you came to your idea. | • According to the text ____. This means ____.<br>• If you look at ____, it says ____. This means ____.<br>• I think ____ because ____. |

### If you want to establish new ways of thinking by elaborating on or challenging the thinking of others...

| Listener Prompt | Speaker Response |
|---|---|
| • Who can add to what X said? | • Adding to what X said, ____.<br>• I agree, and I want to add ____. |
| • Who agrees/disagrees with X?<br>• Who wants to challenge what X said? Why? | • What X said supports what I am saying because ___.<br>• I agree/disagree with X because ____.<br>• I see it similarly/differently because ____.<br>• I agree/disagree with X's view that ____ because in the text, ____.<br>• I agree that ____, but we also have to consider ____.<br>• On one hand I agree with X that ____. But on the other hand, I insist that ____. |
| • How does that idea compare with X's idea?<br>• What do you think about X's idea? | • X's point ____ is important/flawed because ____. |
| • Whose thinking has changed as a result of this conversation? How and why has it changed? | • Before I thought __, but now I think __ because __.<br>• My new thinking is ____ because ____. |

[1] Adapted from Michaels, S., & O'Connor, C. (2012). *Talk Science Primer* [PDF]. Cambridge, MA: TERC. Retrieved from https://inquiryproject.terc.edu/shared/pd/TalkScience_Primer.pdf

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|---|---|
| ● Now that you've heard __[summarize the conversation so far]__, what are you thinking? What are you still wondering about? | ● I still think ____, but now I wonder ____. |