

Language Strategies for Active Classroom Participation

Expressing an Opinion

I think/believe that . . .
In my opinion . . .
Based on my experience, I think . . .

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?

Reporting a Partner's Idea

_____ indicated that . . .
_____ pointed out to me that . . .
_____ emphasized that . . .
_____ concluded 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/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/related to
_____ 's idea.
I agree with (a person) that . . .
My idea builds upon _____ 's idea.

Reporting a Group's Idea

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

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 . . .

