

Language Strategies for Active Classroom Participation

We will participate in classroom discussions in which you may voice your opinion and comment on the opinions of the teacher and other students. Use the following expressions to be successful in communicating clearly and connecting your ideas to the ideas of others.

Expressing an opinion

I think...
I believe...
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.

Getting a friend to comment

What do you think?
Do you agree with that?
What is your opinion?
I'd like to know what ___ thinks.

Individual Reporting

I discovered from ___ that...
I found out from ___ that...
___ pointed out to me that...
___ shared with me that...

Disagreeing

I don't agree with you because
I came to a different conclusion.
I have a different opinion.
I have a different perspective.

Predicting what will happen

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

Paraphrasing what someone said

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

Acknowledging ideas of others

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

Partner or Group Reporting

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

Offering a suggestion

Maybe we/you could...
What if you tried...
Have you thought of...
I have a suggestion.

Affirming/Agreeing

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

Holding the floor

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

Thanking a classmate for a suggestion

Thanks, I like that idea.
I appreciate your input.
I think I'll try that.
I'm glad you thought of that.

Helping when someone gets off the topic

Getting back to what we were saying...
We're digressing. Let's continue with our discussion.
I believe we were discussing...