

Language and Strategies for Group Discussions

Getting into a Discussion

Asking for Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May I ask a question? • I have a question (about that)? • Could I ask . . . ? • I'd like to know . . . ? 	Giving Some Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May I add something? • May I say something here? • I'd like to say something here. • I'd like to comment on that.
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Politely Interrupting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excuse me for interrupting, but . . . • Sorry to interrupt, but . . . • May I interrupt for a moment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excuse me, but . . . • Pardon me, but . . .
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Drawing Others into a Discussion

Asking for Opinions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Name), what's your opinion? • What do you think about . . . ? • How do you feel about that? • How about you? • Do you agree with that? • Any other ideas? 	Ensuring Equal Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Name), we haven't heard from you on this point. • Let's make sure we hear from everyone. • You've made some interesting points. Now, let's hear from the rest of the group. • What does everyone else think about . . . ?
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Expressing Degrees of Certainty

Less Certain/Diplomatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems to me . . . • I imagine . . . • As far as I know . . . • People say . . . • I've heard that . . . 	Neutral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think . . . • I believe . . . • I'm pretty sure/certain . . . • I'd like to say/point out . . . • The point is . . . 	Very Certain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm positive/sure/certain . . . • I honestly believe/think . . . • I'm convinced . . . • In my (honest) opinion . . .
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Responding with Degrees of Certainty

Less Certain/Neutral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I suppose so/not. • I guess you're right. • I agree. • I'm not sure I agree. • Really? 	Strong Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely. • You're absolutely right. • No question. • I totally agree. • I couldn't agree more. 	Strong Disagreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely not. • Positively not. • I totally disagree. • How can you say that?
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Showing How Ideas are Related

Referring to previous ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Name) said that . . . , and I'd like to add . . . • Remember in our last discussion . . . • Getting back to . . . • Going back to what was said earlier . . . 	Summarizing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In other words, you're saying . . . • If I understand correctly, you're saying . . . • We seem to have several main points . . . • I'll sum up the points so far . . .
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