Express an Opinion
or Claim
I think/ believe that ...
It seems to me that ...
In my opinion ...

Can you tell me a bit more about _____?

about _____?

Will you explain that one more time?

I have a question and need a bit more information.

Ask for Clarification My idea is similar to _____'s because we both ...

I agree with ____ because ...

I disagree with ____ because in my research ...

said ____, and I want to connect this thought to it.

My idea builds on ___'s idea because ...

and I agree on the idea because ...

and Connect with

Acknowledge

Paraphasing
What I hear you say is ...
In other words, you
are saying ...
I understand that what you
mean is ...

Helpful Sentence Starters for Discussions

The Cow Creek Treaty of 1853 has been and continues to be disastrous for the U.S. government.