**Sentence Frames for Academic Speaking**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Clarifying*** I have a question about…
* Is it your position that…
* To be clear, you’re saying that…
* I’m confused when you say X; can you elaborate?
* So you think/feel/believe that…
* How is that different from…
 | **Building On*** Y mentioned that…
* Yes, and furthermore…
* The author’s claim that Z is interesting because…
* Adding to what X said,…
* I would like to add to what Y said…
 |
| **Paraphrasing*** If I understand you correctly, you think…
* In other words, you think…
* So you’re saying that…
* Is it fair to say that you believe…
* I hear you saying that…
 | **Summarizing*** Overall, what I’m trying to say is…
* My whole point in one sentence is…
* More than anything else, I believe that…
 |
| **Agreeing*** I agree with Y because…
* Z’s point about X was important because…
* The evidence for Z is overwhelming when you consider that…
* X and I are coming from the same position.
* Despite disagreeing about Y, I agree with Z that…
 | **Politely Disagreeing*** I see it differently because…
* The evidence I’ve seen suggests something different.
* I don’t quite agree with your point about…
* I agree that X, but we also have to consider that…
* Have you thought about…?
 |
| **Expressing an Opinion*** **I think…**
* **I believe…**
* **I predict…**
* **I imagine…**
* **In my opinion…**
* **It seems to me that…**
* **Not everyone will agree with me, but…**
 | **Offering a Suggestion*** **What if you/we…?**
* **What would happen if you/we…?**
* **Maybe you/we could…?**
* **Here’s something that we/you might try…**
 |