

Academic Language Scripts for Socratic Seminar

Clarifying

- Could you repeat that?
- Could you give us an example of that?
- I have a question about that: ...?
- Could you please explain what _____ means?
- Would you mind repeating that?
- I'm not sure I understood that. Could you please give us another example?
- Would you mind going over the instructions for us again?
- So, do you mean...?
- What did you mean when you said...?
- Are you sure that...?
- I think what _____ is trying to say is....
- Let me see if I understand you. Do you mean _____ or _____?
- Thank you for your comment. Can you cite for us where in the text you found your information?

Probing for Higher Level Thinking

- What examples do you have of...?
- Where in the text can we find...?
- I understand..., but I wonder about....
- How does this idea connect to...?
- If _____ is true, then...?
- What would happen if _____?
- Do you agree or disagree with his/her statement? Why?
- What is another way to look at it?
- How are _____ and _____ similar?
- Why is _____ important?

Building on What Others Say

- I agree with what _____ said because....
- You bring up an interesting point, and I also think....
- That's an interesting idea. I wonder...? I think... Do you think...?
- I thought about that also and I'm wondering why...?
- I hadn't thought of that before. You make me wonder if...? Do you think...?
- _____ said that... I agree and also think....
- Based on the ideas from _____, _____ and _____, it seems like we all think that....

Valdez, S., Carter, M., & Rodgers, J. (2013). *The write path English language arts: Informing ourselves and others through writing and speaking*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.



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Expressing an Opinion

- I think/believe/predict/imagine that... What do you think?
- In my opinion....
- It seems to me that....
- Not everyone will agree with me, but....

Interrupting

- Excuse me, but... (I don't understand.)
- Sorry for interrupting, but... (I missed what you said.)
- May I interrupt for a moment?
- May I add something here?

Disagreeing

- I don't really agree with you because....
- I see it another way. I think....
- My idea is slightly different from yours. I believe that... I think that....
- I have a different interpretation than you....

Inviting Others into the Dialogue

- Does anyone agree/disagree?
- What gaps do you see in my reasoning?
- What different conclusions do you have?
- _____ (name), what do you think?
- I wonder what _____ thinks?
- Who has another idea/question/interpretation?
- _____ (name), what did you understand about what _____ said?
- We haven't heard from many people in the group. Could someone new offer an idea or question?

Offering a Suggestion/Redirecting the Seminar

- We can't seem to find the connection to the text. Could you point out what and where that connection is?
- We all want to remember that our goal is a flow of questions and comments and ideas to be shared, rather than a debate to be won. How could your comment be rephrased to reflect our goal?
- Maybe you/we could....
- Here's something we/you might try:
- What if we... ?
- We seem to be having a debate instead of a dialogue, can we....
- Who has another perspective to offer that will help us re-focus the conversation?
- Let's look at page _____ and see what we think about....

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