Oral

Academic Discussion Sentence Starters

Making a Comment:

- That is a good idea because…
- That is confusing because…
- I disagree with ______ because…

Expressing an Opinion:

- I think/believe that …
- It seems to me that …. 
- In my opinion …

Making a Prediction:

- I think that __________ will happen because…
- I don’t think that __________ will happen because…
- I wonder if…
- Since this happened, then what if …
- Based on …, I infer that …. 

Clarifying Something:

- Now I understand ________ because…
- No, I think it means…
- I agree with __________ because…
- At first I thought __________, but now I think ____________ because…
- What I hear you saying is…
- I don’t understand __________, but I do understand _______ because…

 Asking a Question:

- What did you mean when you said ______________?
- Do you think that…? 
- Why is that happening?
- What is happening?
- Why do you think that way?
- What led you to that conclusion?

Soliciting a Response:

- What do you think?
- We haven’t heard from _______ yet.
- Do you agree?
- What answer did you get?

Making a Connection:

- This reminds me of…
- This is like ______________ when…
- This is like ______________, but different because…

Paraphrasing what someone else said:

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

Acknowledging others ideas:

- My idea is similar to/related to __________’s idea that …. 
- I agree with what __________ is saying …
- My idea builds upon __________’s idea that …