

Discussion Placemat

This discussion placemat has multiple uses. The demand of discussion appears both in oral discussion and in writing. These stems provide help in extending thinking and asking for clarification.



Evidence

What facts or statistics prove your point that...
 What real world examples prove your point that...
 Where in the text does it support your point that...
 What else have you read or seen that gives support for...

Additions

How can we add to this idea?
 What are some other examples related to this?
 What else could support this idea?
 What contradicts or disputes this idea?
 I would add...
 Building on that idea...
 That idea connects to...
On the other hand...
 An even better example might be...

Clarify

Is that point made clearly?
 Can I restate what you said about...?
 Why this makes sense to others...?

 Let me see if I understood you correctly.
 To paraphrase what you just said...
 In other words, what you are saying is...
 What I understood was...

Specifics

What are some words or phrases that point to that idea?
 Can you show me where it says that?
 Why do you think the author states that?
 Can you be more specific?

For example...
 In the text it says...
 One example that illustrates that is
 The author describes in detail...

Elaboration

Can you elaborate...?
 What do you mean by..?
 How does that example support...?
 Can you give more examples...?

I think it means...
In other words...
 It is important because...
To state the point another way...
 Another example might be...

Disagreement

Is that relevant?
 Can you show me more evidence?
 Does that evidence apply to this situation?
 Can you justify that for me?

I don't agree because...
 I don't see your point because...
 That seems unfair because...
 I don't think your evidence supports your claim because...