

# Discourse Starters

## Questioning and Discussing a Text

One question I have is \_\_\_\_\_.

Could this mean \_\_\_\_\_?

What do you think the author means by \_\_\_\_\_?

Where in the text can we find \_\_\_\_\_?

Why do you think the author \_\_\_\_\_?

I understand \_\_\_\_\_, but I wonder \_\_\_\_\_.

I notice that \_\_\_\_\_.

I think this (word/sentence/paragraph) means \_\_\_\_\_.

I think \_\_\_\_\_ because the text says \_\_\_\_\_.

In paragraph \_\_\_\_\_, the author says \_\_\_\_\_.

According to the text, \_\_\_\_\_.

One way to interpret \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

Based on the text, I can infer that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Summarizing

The main events that take place are \_\_\_\_\_.

The major points of the text are \_\_\_\_\_.

The main idea of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

One central idea of this text is \_\_\_\_\_.

Another central idea is \_\_\_\_\_.

All in all, the message is \_\_\_\_\_.

The author's main purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Basically, the author is saying that \_\_\_\_\_.

It can be concluded that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

How would you summarize the central idea(s)?

## Comparing and Contrasting

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are similar because \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are similar in that they both \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. Similarly, \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

One thing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have in common is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are different because \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are different in that \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

One difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Clarifying

I'm not sure I understand the instructions.

Could you repeat that please?

I have a question about \_\_\_\_\_.

I am having trouble with \_\_\_\_\_.

Will you explain that again?

Could you clarify \_\_\_\_\_?

Could you please show me how to \_\_\_\_\_?

Would you mind helping me with \_\_\_\_\_?

Which (page/paragraph/section) are we reading?

How do you spell/pronounce \_\_\_\_\_?

## Discourse Starters

### Agreeing and Disagreeing

I agree with the idea that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

I share your point of view because \_\_\_\_\_.

You made a good point when you said \_\_\_\_\_.

I agree with (a person) that \_\_\_\_\_.

Although I agree that \_\_\_\_\_, I also think \_\_\_\_\_.

I see what you're saying, but \_\_\_\_\_.

I understand where you're coming from, but \_\_\_\_\_.

I disagree with the idea that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

I see it a different way because \_\_\_\_\_.

You have a point, but the evidence suggests \_\_\_\_\_.

Have you also considered \_\_\_\_\_?

### Arguing and Persuading with Evidence

I believe that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

It is clear that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

One reason I think \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

I have several reasons for thinking \_\_\_\_\_.

Let me explain why I think that \_\_\_\_\_.

Based on evidence in the text, I think \_\_\_\_\_.

Evidence such as \_\_\_\_\_ suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

An example to support my position is \_\_\_\_\_.

This is evident because \_\_\_\_\_.

The text clearly indicates that \_\_\_\_\_.

What evidence supports the idea that \_\_\_\_\_?

Can you explain why you think \_\_\_\_\_?

### Evaluating

This is effective because \_\_\_\_\_.

The evidence \_\_\_\_\_ is strong because \_\_\_\_\_.

This is convincing because \_\_\_\_\_.

The author's choice makes sense because \_\_\_\_\_.

I see why the author \_\_\_\_\_, but I think \_\_\_\_\_.

This is not very effective because \_\_\_\_\_.

The evidence \_\_\_\_\_ is weak because \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ would have been a better choice.

This would have been better if \_\_\_\_\_.

What do you think about the writer's choice to \_\_\_\_\_?

Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_ (is/isn't) effective?

### Giving Feedback and Suggesting

The part where you \_\_\_\_\_ is strong because \_\_\_\_\_.

What impressed me the most is how you \_\_\_\_\_.

This is a good start. Maybe you should add \_\_\_\_\_.

I like how you \_\_\_\_\_, but I would try \_\_\_\_\_.

You might consider changing \_\_\_\_\_.

I would suggest revising \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_.

One suggestion would be to \_\_\_\_\_.

Why did you choose \_\_\_\_\_?

A better choice might be \_\_\_\_\_.

This would be clearer if \_\_\_\_\_.