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<head>**Discussion Tips**

An important part of building a vibrant classroom culture is creating an atmosphere in which all students feel empowered to participate in powerful classroom conversation. You may have noticed that your students who are naturally extroverted often participate freely in a whole-class discussion, while those who are more introverted or, perhaps, who come from cultures that respect different classroom norms, may need encouragement to share. You can use sentence prompts like these to invite all students into the conversation:

“That’s so interesting … please tell me more!”

“Can someone explain that in a different way?”

“What are some examples of that?”

“Can someone add on to that idea?”

Sharing and discussing ideas will often involve agreeing and/or disagreeing with what others say. As students listen carefully and respond thoughtfully to their classmates’ ideas, encourage them to express themselves in respectful and constructive ways. You may wish to post these sentence starters prominently, so students can refer to them often:

“I agree, and I also think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“I mostly agree, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“I like what you just said because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“I respectfully disagree because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

For more tips and guidance on classroom discussions, see these helpful resources.

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