

Conversation Stems for Class Discussion¹

As you engage in class discussion, it is important to consider the other side, expressing understanding for those who have a different point of view. To do this, you can insert a **concession** in your comments. You can also use the templates in the chart to help frame your answers.

Concession Stems

- Although I grant that __, I still maintain that __.
- While it is true that __, it does not necessarily follow that __.
- On one hand I agree with X that __. But on the other hand, I insist that __.
- It cannot be denied that __; however, I believe__.
- Certainly..., but __.
- It goes without saying...
- Perhaps..., yet__.

TO DISAGREE	TO AGREE--WITH A DIFFERENCE	TO QUALIFY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think X is mistaken because she overlooks _____. • X’s claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____. • I disagree with X’s view that _____ because in the text, _____. • X contradicts herself. On the one hand, she argues _____. But on the other hand, she also says _____. • By focusing on _____, X overlooks the deeper problem of _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree that _____ because my experience _____ confirms it. • X is surely right about _____ because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that _____. • X’s theory of _____ is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of _____. • I agree that _____, a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe _____. • Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that it basically boils down to _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____. • Although I disagree with much that X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____. • Though I concede that _____, I still insist that _____. • X is right that _____, but I do not agree when she claims that _____. • I am of two minds about X’s claim that _____. On the one hand I agree that _____. On the other hand, I’m not sure if _____.

¹ They Say, I Say by Gerald Graff