

Figure 9.5: Student Talk Moves and Sentence Stems

Student Talk Move	Sentence Stem
Clarifying	How is this relevant to your point? Can you explain what you mean? So what you're saying is _____.
Connecting	I want to say more about what _____ said about _____. I'd like to add _____. I noticed that _____. What _____ said reminded me of _____.
Agreeing	I agree with _____ because _____. I think _____ made a great point about _____. Yes, and furthermore _____. Although we still disagree on the claim overall, it seems to me that we <i>can</i> agree on _____.
Disagreeing	I disagree with _____ because _____. Couldn't it also be that _____? I see why _____ might say that, but _____. While I think _____ had a point that _____, I disagree with the part where he or she said _____. It seems to me that _____ committed an error in reasoning when he or she said _____.
Changing the Subject	It seems to me that we're spending a lot of time discussing _____, when maybe we should be discussing _____. I'd like to change the subject to _____. Something I think the other side has not addressed is _____.
Taking Responsibility	I must have miscommunicated my point earlier; I apologize. What I intended to say was _____. Earlier, I neglected to point out _____. I'm sorry, I misunderstood you. I thought you meant _____. You're right. Those words were hurtful and uncalled for. I shouldn't have said that.

Source: Michaels, S., O'Connor, C., & Resnick, L. B. (2008). *Deliberative discourse idealized and realized: Accountable talk in the classroom and in civic life*. *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 27(4), 283–297.