

Constructive Conversation Resource Card

Evaluate and Compare: Prompts

Prompt starters:

- How can we decide which is the more _____ issue?
- How does the evidence for your argument compare to mine?
- What criteria do we use to evaluate the weight of evidence?
- How do we compare “apples” of _____ to the “oranges” of _____?
- Which has the strongest evidence?
- What is your opinion? Why?
- How might we take the best from both ideas?
- How is that evidence stronger than this evidence?

From Zwiers, O’Hara, and Pritchard, 2014.

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Evaluate and Compare: Responses

Response starters:

- I think we should use the criteria of _____ because _____.
- _____ is strong evidence because...
- A point of disagreement that I have is...
- Even though it seems valid that _____, I disagree because...
- That is a valid point, but...
- I think the negatives of _____ outweigh the positives of _____.

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Fortify/Support: Prompts

Prompt starters:

- Can you give an example from the materials?
- Where does it say that?
- What is an example from other readings/materials?
- What is an example from outside of class?
- Can you give an example from your life?
- What is the strongest support for _____? How does it support the idea?

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Response starters:

- For example...
- In the materials/text, it says...
- Remember in the other subject we studied...
- One example from my life is...
- One case that illustrates this is...
- Some strong supporting evidence is...



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Clarify: Prompts

Prompt Starters

- Can you elaborate on ...? OR Can you clarify the part about ...?
- What do you mean by ...?
- Say more about...
- How is _____ important?
- I understand the part about _____, but I want to know _____.
- Can you be more specific?
- Is what I said clear? OR Does that make sense?
- What do you think?

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Response starters:

- I think it means _____.
- More specifically, it is _____, because _____.
- An analogy might be...
- It is important because...
- To paraphrase what you just said...
- It sounds like you think that...
- It all boils down to...
- A different way to say it is...



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Create: Prompts

Prompt Starters

- What is your idea?
- How can we combine these ideas?
- What do we need to do?
- What are other points of view?
- What do you think about...?
- Why...? How...? I wonder...?

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Response starters:

- One idea could be...
- My hypothesis is...
- That reminds me of...
- I noticed the pattern of...
- I think it depends on...

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