Goal: Students independently build up ideas (knowledge, agreement, solution) using these skills as they interact in meaningful ways.

Negotiate (Evaluate & Compare) (If more than 1 Idea)

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

Response starters:
- I think we should use the criteria of … because… ___ is very strong evidence because…
- A point of disagreement that I have is Even though it seems that … That is a valid point, but…
- I think the negatives of… outweigh the positives of…

Constructive Conversation Skills

PLACEMAT

Create

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…

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

Build Idea(s)

Prompt starters:
- Can you elaborate on the…?
- What does that mean?
- What do you mean by…?
- Can you clarify the part about…?
- Say more about…
- Why… How… What… When…
- How is that important?
- I understand the part about…, but I want to know…
- Can you be more specific?
- What is the strongest support for…?
- How does it support the idea?

Response starters:
- I think it means…
- In other words,
- More specifically, it is … because…
- An analogy might be…
- It is important because…
- Let me see if I heard you right…
- To paraphrase what you just said, you…
- In other words, you are saying that…
- What I understood was…
- It sounds like you think that…
- It all boils down to…
- A different way to say it…

Fortify/Support

Prompt starters:
- Can you give an example from the text?
- Where does it say that?
- What are examples from other texts?
- What is a real world example?
- Are there any cases of that in real life?
- Can you give an example from your life?
- What is the strongest support for…?
- How does it support the idea?

Response starters:
- For example, In the text it said that…
- Remember in the other story we read that…
- An example from my life is One case that illustrates this is…
- Strong supporting evidence

Clarify

Prompt starters:
- Can you elaborate on the…?
- What does that mean?
- What do you mean by…?
- Can you clarify the part about…?
- Say more about…
- Why… How… What… When…
- How is that important?
- I understand the part about…, but I want to know…
- Can you be more specific?
- What is the strongest support for…?
- How does it support the idea?

Response starters:
- I think it means…
- In other words,
- More specifically, it is … because…
- An analogy might be…
- It is important because…
- Let me see if I heard you right…
- To paraphrase what you just said, you…
- In other words, you are saying that…
- What I understood was…
- It sounds like you think that…
- It all boils down to…
- A different way to say it…

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