

Principles for Participation in an Idea Wave

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Speak only when it is your turn.

Share only one idea, in 10 seconds or less.

Respond using a complete sentence.

Use your "public voice" instead of your "private voice." Speak loudly and slowly enough for everyone to easily hear your comments.

Listen "loudly" (pay careful attention) to what your classmates are saying.

Don't worry about copying new ideas during the discussion. Listen attentively.

If your idea is similar to or builds upon someone else's idea, acknowledge your classmate's contribution before you make your point.

Language Strategies to Acknowledge Other People's Ideas

Casual Conversational English

My idea is like _____'s idea.

My idea is the same as _____'s.

Formal Spoken & Written English

Expressing Agreement & Building Upon an Idea:

My idea is similar to/related to _____'s idea.

My idea builds upon _____'s idea.

I agree with _____'s perspective. I also think that...

As _____ already pointed out, it seems like...

_____ already mentioned..., but I would like to add that...

Expressing Polite Disagreement & Providing Reasons:

I don't entirely agree with _____ that...

My opinion/experience/perspective is different than _____'s.

My idea is slightly different than _____'s.

Language Strategies for Active Classroom Participation

Expressing an Opinion

I think/believe that...

It seems to me that...

In my opinion...

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean?

Will you explain that again?

I have a question about that.

Soliciting a Response

What do you think?

We haven't heard from you yet.

Do you agree?

Individual Reporting

I discovered from _____ that...

I found out from _____ that...

_____ pointed out to me that...

_____ shared with me that...

Disagreeing

I don't agree with you because....

I got a different answer than you...

I see it another way.

Affirming

That's an interesting idea.

I hadn't thought of that.

I see what you mean.

Predicting

I guess/predict/imagine that...

Based on.....I infer that...

I hypothesize that....

Paraphrasing

So you are saying that...

In other words, you think...

What I hear you saying is...

Acknowledging Ideas

My idea is similar to.....

I agree with (a person) that....

My idea builds upon _____'s ideas.

Partner/Group Reporting

We decided/agreed that...

We concluded that....

Our group sees it differently.

We had a different approach.

Offering a Suggestion

Maybe we could....

What if we....

Here's something we might try.

Holding the Floor

As I was saying...

If I could finish my thought...

What I was trying to say was...

Language for Reporting in Partners or Groups

- ✓ We agreed that...
- ✓ We decided that...
- ✓ We concluded/came to the conclusion that...
- ✓ We believe that...
- ✓ We noticed/observed...
- ✓ We have different opinions.
 - Some of us believe that...
 - One group member thinks that...
- ✓ We thought of two different approaches/ideas/answers.....
- ✓ We could not agree about...
- ✓ We came up with several different answers/solutions.
- ✓ Our groups sees it differently that other groups.
- ✓ Our ideas are similar to the other groups, but we also decided that...