Suggestions for Sentence starters for use by Inner Circle Participants

Agree/Disagree
• Has anyone else had a similar ________?
• Who has a different ________?

Clarification
• I’m not sure I understand ________?
• Tell me more about ________?
• Do you see gaps in my reasoning?
• Are you taking into account something different from what I have considered?

Support Questions
• Can you give us an example of ________?
• Where in the text ________?
• What would be a good reason for ________?
• What is some evidence for ________?

Cause and Effect
• Why do you think ________ happened?
• How could ________ have been prevented?
• Do you think ________ would happen that way again? Why?
• What are some reasons why people ________?

Compare/Contrast
• How are ________ and ________ alike? Different?
• What is ________ similar to?
• Can you think of why ________ feels different than ________?
• How does this text remind you of ________?

Benefits/Burdens
• What are some of the reasons this wouldn’t (would) be a good idea?
• Would anyone like to speak to the opposite side?
• Those are some reasons this would work; what reasons might it not work?

Point of View/Perspective
• ________ has expressed a different opinion. Are there others?
• Do you have a different interpretation of ________?
• Do you have different conclusions about ________?
• How did you arrive at that view?

Counterexample
• Would that still happen if ________?
• What might have made a difference for ________?

Different Situation
• Can you describe a situation that would ________?
• Suppose _________. Would that still be true? Why or why not?
• I agree with ________ because ________, but I want to add another reason why I think ________ is true.
• I disagree with ________ because ________.
• I think what you are saying is ________. Is that correct?
• I understand your point ________, but I want to add/disagree/give another side.

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1 These sentence starters, along with the evaluation sheets on the following page, are modified versions of templates for Socratic Seminar found at http://www.journeytoexcellence.org/practice/instruction/theories/miscideas/socratic/chart.phtml
Inner Circle Self-Evaluation

Name________________________________________

Positive Behaviors

____ 1. I came prepared for the seminar.
____ 2. I was courteous to the other students.
____ 3. I paused and thought before speaking.
____ 4. I listened to others tell their opinions.
____ 5. I kept an open mind for opinions different from my own.
____ 6. I acted as a positive role model for other students.
____ 7. I built on what was said just before I gave my opinion.
____ 8. I used fixed examples from the text to support statements.
____ 9. I felt comfortable speaking in the seminar.
____10. I gave my opinions clearly.

Negative Behaviors

____ 11. I interrupted others.
____ 12. I acted silly.
____ 13. I did not look at the person who was speaking.
____ 15. I talked too much or not at all

What is the best idea you heard in the seminar?
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Outer Circle Evaluation Sheet

Name________________________________________

In the course of the seminar:

• What was the most interesting question?
• What was the most interesting idea to come from a participant?
• What was the best thing you observed?
• What was the most troubling thing you observed?
• What do you think should be done differently in the next seminar?
• Did the participants all participate equally?
• Rate the seminar on a scale of 1-10. (Please use decimals or fractions!) The rubric below may be helpful:

~10__Excellent (Everyone participated, listened, had good ideas, did not interrupt.)
~7__Good (Generally, everyone participated but the seminar could have better ideas and behavior.)
~4__Fair (Side talk, interruptions, students distracted.)
~1__Poor (Lots of side talk, interruptions, and rude behavior.)
Math Literature Reading List to Explore²

Carle, E. (2002). *Rooster's off to see the world*: Aladdin.

² This collection comprises the combined suggestions of TODOS members who were asked on a listserv to suggest math books for a middle school math library.