Academic Language Scripts for Structured Discussions

Clarifying
- Could you repeat that?
- Could you give us an example of that?
- I have a question about . . . ?
- Could you please explain what __________________ means?
- Would you mind repeating that?
- I’m not sure I understood that. Could you please give us another example?
- Would you mind going over the instructions for us again?
- So, do you mean . . . ?
- What did you mean when you said . . . ?
- Are you sure that . . . ?
- I think what ______ is trying to say is . . .
- Let me see if I understand you. Do you mean ______ or ______?
- Thank you for your comment. Can you cite for us where in the text you found your information?
- If I understand you correctly . . .
- In other words . . .
- To summarize . . .
- One thing I am confused about . . .
- Your main point is . . .

Probing for Higher Level Thinking
- What examples do you have of . . . ?
- Where in the text can we find . . . ?
- I understand . . ., but I wonder about . . .
- How does this idea connect to . . . ?
- If ______ is true, then . . . ?
- What would happen if ______?
- Do you agree or disagree with his/her statement? Why?
- What is another way to look at it?
- How are _____ and _____ similar?
- Why is _____ important?
- How do you know that? Can you give me an example?
- Is there another way to look at this . . . ?

Building on What Others Say
- I agree with what ______________ said because . . .
- You bring up an interesting point, and I also think . . .
- That’s an interesting idea. I wonder . . . I think . . . Do you think . . . ?
- I thought about that also, and I’m wondering why . . .?
- I hadn’t thought of that before. You make me wonder if . . . ? Do you think . . . ?
- ___________ said that . . . I agree and also think . . .
- Based on the ideas from _____, _______, and ______, it seems like we all think that . . .
- That’s an excellent point and I would add . . .