How To Speak Like An Educated Professional

Ideas for how to start your sentences…

Making Observations

I noticed _____.
If you look at _____, you'll see that _____.
When I read _____, I saw that _____.

Making Predictions

I guess/predict/imagine that _____.
Based on _____, I infer that _____.
I hypothesize that _____.

Expressing an Idea

I think that _____.
It seems like _____.

Drawing Conclusions

After reading _____, I conclude that _____.
Based on _____, I assume that _____.

Asking for Clarification

X, what do you mean by _____?
X, will you explain that to me/us again?
I have a question about _____.
I don't quite understand _____.

Referencing the Text

I was reading in the _____ paragraph in the _____
      sentence, and I _____.
When I saw/read _____, I thought _____.
X, where in the text do you find that?

Reporting a Classmate's Idea

X pointed out to me that _____.
X emphasized that _____.
X shared with me that _____.

Reporting a Group's Idea

We decided/agreed/determined that _____.
We concluded that _____.
Our group sees it differently. We think _____.

Soliciting a Response

What do you think, X?
We haven't heard from X yet.
X, do you agree?
What are your thoughts?

Paraphrasing

So what _____ is saying is that _____.
In other words, you think _____.
If I understand you correctly, your idea/suggestion is that
      _____.

Offering a Suggestion

Maybe we could try _____.
You/we might think about _____.
You/we might consider trying _____.

Holding the Floor

As I was saying, _____.
What I was trying to say was _____.
Let me make my point in a different way: _____.

Testing Ideas

If _____ were true, then _____.
How does _____ and _____ make sense?

Interjecting an Idea

I would like to add an idea.
Can I say something?

Affirming

I agree with ____ because ____.
I share X's point of view: ____.

Disagreeing

I disagree with X somewhat/completely: _____.
I see it differently: _____.

IMPORTANT! Educated professionals connect EVERY comment to a previous comment.

Since we finished problem _____, I'd like to move onto problem _____.
Building off what X said, _____.
I'd like to finish off the discussion by saying that _____.