

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Expressing an Idea

I think that \_\_\_\_\_.  
It seems like \_\_\_\_\_.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Reporting a Classmate's Idea

X pointed out to me that \_\_\_\_\_.  
X emphasized that \_\_\_\_\_.  
X shared with me that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Soliciting a Response

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

## Offering a Suggestion

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

## Testing Ideas

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

## Affirming

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

## Making Predictions

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

## Drawing Conclusions

After reading \_\_\_\_\_, I conclude that \_\_\_\_\_.  
Based on \_\_\_\_\_, I assume that \_\_\_\_\_.

## 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 Group's Idea

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

## Paraphrasing

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

## Holding the Floor

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

## Interjecting an Idea

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

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.