**Ground Rules for Class Discussion**

1. Be prepared to share your idea when instructed to do so, first with your partner and next with the class.

2. No blurting (ever) or hand raising (until I ask for volunteers).

3. Use the assigned sentence starter to share your idea.

4. Use your public discussion voice to share your idea: two times slower and three times louder than conversation.

5. Listen attentively while classmates are sharing and jot down new ideas.

6. If your idea is similar to someone else’s, acknowledge your classmate’s contribution before sharing your idea.

**Language Class Discussion Sentence Starters**

**Expressing an Opinion**

I think/believe that . . .

In my opinion . . .

Based on my experience, I think . . .

**Predicting**

I predict/imagine that . . .

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

I hypothesize that . . .

**Asking for Clarification**

What do you mean?

Will you explain that again?

I have a question about that.

**Paraphrasing**

So you are saying that . . .

In other words, you think . . .

What I hear you saying is . . .

**Language Class Discussion Sentence Starters**

**Soliciting a Response**

What do you think?

We haven’t heard from you yet. \_\_\_\_’s idea.

Do you agree?

What answer did you get?

**Acknowledging Ideas**

My idea is similar to/related to

I agree with (a person) that . . .

My idea builds upon \_\_\_\_’s idea.

**Reporting a Partner’s Idea**

\_\_\_\_ indicated that . . .

\_\_\_\_ pointed out to me that . . .

\_\_\_\_ emphasized that . . .

\_\_\_\_ concluded that . . .

**Reporting a Group’s Idea**

We decided/agreed that . . .

We concluded that . . .

Our group sees it differently.

We had a different approach.

**Disagreeing**

I don’t agree with you because . . .

I got a different answer than you.

I see it another way.

**Offering a Suggestion**

Maybe we could . . .

What if we . . .

Here’s something we might try.

**Affirming**

That’s an interesting idea.

I hadn’t thought of that.

I see what you mean.

**Holding the Floor**

As I was saying, . . .

If I could finish my thought . . .

What I was trying to say was . . .