

Academic Discourse Teaching Script - University Level

Topic: Academic Discourse Mastery

Level: University (Age 19)

Duration: 90 minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Master formal academic discussion techniques
- Develop sophisticated vocabulary for scholarly discourse
- Apply structured debate methodologies
- Demonstrate critical analysis through verbal communication

- ✓ Digital presentation slides
- ✓ Student workbooks
- ✓ Discussion rubrics
- ✓ Recording equipment
- ✓ Academic article samples
- ✓ Timer/stopwatch
- ✓ Feedback forms
- ✓ Assessment criteria sheets

Pre-Session Setup (30 mins before)

[Room Preparation Checklist]

- Arrange seating in discussion circles (4-5 students each)
- Test all digital equipment and presentations
- Position recording equipment strategically
- Prepare whiteboard with session objectives
- Set up timer display

Room Layout Considerations:

- Ensure clear sightlines between all discussion groups

- Create a central presentation area
- Establish designated spaces for fishbowl activities
- Set up resource station with extra materials

Opening Segment (0-5 minutes)

"Welcome to today's session on mastering academic discourse. We'll be exploring how to elevate your discussion skills to meet university-level expectations."

[Play TED Talk clip on academic discourse - 2 minutes]

Opening Hook Questions:

- "What distinguishes academic discussion from casual conversation?"
- "How might these skills impact your academic career?"
- "What challenges have you faced in academic discussions?"

Engagement Strategies:

- Use think-pair-share for initial responses
- Capture key points on whiteboard
- Connect to students' prior experiences

Concept Introduction (5-15 minutes)

"Let's break down the RADAR method for academic discourse preparation:"

RADAR Method Explanation:

- **Research** - Gather scholarly sources and evidence
- **Analyze** - Critical examination of arguments
- **Develop** - Construct logical arguments
- **Articulate** - Practice clear expression
- **Respond** - Engage thoughtfully with others

[Distribute RADAR method worksheets]

Presentation Techniques:

- Use visual aids for each component
- Provide real-world examples
- Include student participation in explanations

Support Strategies:

- Provide method cards for quick reference
- Offer simplified versions for ESL students
- Include advanced examples for stronger students

Modeling Phase (15-25 minutes)

"I'll now demonstrate an academic discussion using a current research topic. Watch for specific techniques and language choices."

[Begin demonstration with volunteer student]

Demonstration Elements:

- Formal academic language usage
- Evidence integration techniques
- Counter-argument handling
- Professional tone maintenance

- Citation incorporation

Key Phrases to Model:

- "The research suggests that..."
- "This evidence supports the notion that..."
- "A contrasting perspective indicates..."
- "Building upon the previous point..."
- "To synthesize these ideas..."

Observation Focus Points:

- Note transition techniques
- Observe body language
- Track evidence usage
- Monitor engagement strategies

Guided Practice (25-40 minutes)

"Now it's your turn to practice these techniques in structured groups. We'll use the fishbowl method for this exercise."

Fishbowl Discussion Format:

1. Inner circle (4 students) - Active discussants
2. Outer circle - Observers and note-takers
3. Rotation every 7 minutes
4. Topic cards provided for each round

Sample Discussion Topics:

- The impact of artificial intelligence on higher education
- The role of social media in academic discourse
- Climate change policy in academic institutions
- The future of peer-reviewed publishing

Observable Skills:

- Academic vocabulary usage
- Evidence-based argumentation
- Active listening behaviors
- Professional disagreement techniques
- Synthesis of multiple viewpoints

Independent Practice (40-60 minutes)

"We'll now move into formal academic debate groups. Each team will prepare and present arguments following the structured format."

Debate Format:

- Opening statements (3 minutes each)
- Evidence presentation (5 minutes each)
- Rebuttal phase (4 minutes each)
- Closing arguments (2 minutes each)

Facilitation Strategies:

- Monitor time strictly
- Provide verbal cues for transitions
- Record key points for feedback
- Note exemplary language usage

Advanced Discussion Techniques (60-75 minutes)

"Let's explore advanced techniques for managing complex academic discussions."

Socratic Questioning Methods:

- Clarification questions
- Assumption probing
- Evidence examination
- Viewpoint analysis
- Implication exploration

Implementation Exercise:

1. Form triads (Questioner, Responder, Observer)
2. Use provided academic articles as discussion base
3. Practice each questioning type
4. Rotate roles every 5 minutes

Advanced Language Structures:

Purpose	Academic Phrase
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Hypothesis	"One might postulate that..."
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Analysis	"The evidence appears to suggest..."
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Synthesis	"Integrating these perspectives..."
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Evaluation	"The merit of this argument lies in..."
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Assessment and Feedback (75-85 minutes)

Evaluation Components:

- Peer feedback forms
- Self-reflection questionnaires
- Instructor observation notes
- Recording analysis (optional)

Assessment Rubric Categories:

Category	Exemplary (5)	Proficient (3-4)	Developing (1-2)
Academic Language	Consistent, sophisticated use	Regular, appropriate use	Inconsistent use
Evidence Usage	Comprehensive integration	Adequate support	Limited reference
Critical Analysis	Deep, nuanced analysis	Clear reasoning	Surface-level

Closure and Extension (85-90 minutes)

"Let's conclude by reflecting on our learning and planning for future application."

Exit Reflection Questions:

- "How has your understanding of academic discourse evolved?"
- "Which techniques will you implement in your next class discussion?"
- "What challenges do you anticipate in applying these skills?"

Further Development Opportunities:

- Join academic debate society
- Participate in research symposiums
- Create discussion groups for course topics
- Record and analyze personal discussions

Closing Activities (80-90 minutes)

"Let's conclude by reflecting on today's learning and setting goals for future academic discussions."

Final Reflection Questions:

- What key strategies will you implement in your next academic discussion?
- How has your understanding of academic discourse evolved?
- What areas still need development?

Follow-up Tasks:

- Practice RADAR method with provided article
- Record a 5-minute academic discussion response
- Complete self-assessment rubric

Preview of Next Session:

We'll build on today's foundation by exploring advanced argumentation techniques and deeper analysis methods.

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