



# PLANIT

## TEACHERS

## Academic Discussion Skills Development

### Initial Self-Assessment (15 minutes)

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*Before we begin developing academic discussion skills, let's evaluate your current comfort level and abilities.*

#### Rate your confidence level (1-5)

1 = Not confident at all | 5 = Extremely confident

Skill Area	Rating (1-5)	Notes
Speaking in academic discussions		
Using academic vocabulary appropriately		
Constructing logical arguments		
Active listening and response		

### Academic Discussion Phrase Bank Development (20 minutes)

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*Complete the following exercises to build your academic discussion vocabulary.*

### Exercise 1: Matching Academic Phrases

Draw lines connecting phrases with their functions:

#### Phrases:

1. "Building on the previous point..."
2. "Research suggests that..."
3. "A contrasting perspective is..."
4. "The evidence indicates..."
5. "To synthesize these views..."

#### Functions:

- a. Introducing evidence
- b. Connecting ideas
- c. Presenting opposition
- d. Summarizing
- e. Citing research

### Exercise 2: Creating Academic Responses

Write appropriate academic phrases for each situation:

#### 1. Respectfully disagreeing with a peer:

#### 2. Asking for clarification:

#### 3. Introducing a new perspective:

**Discussion Analysis & Preparation (25 minutes)**

*Using the provided article on "Digital Privacy in Modern Society," complete the following analytical tasks.*

**Main Argument Identification**

Main Argument	Supporting Evidence	Counter-Argument

**Discussion Question Development**

Create three thought-provoking discussion questions based on the article:

1.
2.

3.

### Structured Academic Discussion Practice (30 minutes)

*Practice implementing academic discussion techniques using the following structured exercises.*

#### Exercise 1: Structured Academic Debate

Time	Activity	Key Phrases to Use
2 minutes	Opening Statement	"I would like to argue that..." "The central issue is..."
3 minutes	Evidence Presentation	"Research demonstrates..." "According to studies..."
2 minutes	Counter-Arguments	"While some might argue..." "An alternative perspective..."

#### Exercise 2: Response Building

Complete these sentence starters with academic responses:

**1. When presenting evidence:**

"The data clearly indicates that \_\_\_\_\_"

**2. When acknowledging opposing views:**

"While there is merit to the argument that \_\_\_\_\_"

**3. When synthesizing multiple viewpoints:**

"Considering both perspectives, we can conclude that \_\_\_\_\_"

**Advanced Discussion Techniques (45 minutes)**

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**Critical Thinking Frameworks**

Technique	Application	Example
Socratic Questioning	Probe assumptions and evidence	"What evidence supports that conclusion?"
Devil's Advocate	Challenge prevailing views	"Consider the opposite perspective..."
PEEL Analysis	Point, Evidence, Explain, Link	Structured argument building

**Implementation Exercise**

Apply these techniques to the following scenarios:

**Scenario 1: Environmental Policy Debate**

Topic: Should carbon taxes be implemented globally?

Socratic Questions:

Devil's Advocate Response:

PEEL Analysis:

Evidence-Based Discussion Skills (40 minutes)

Types of Evidence in Academic Discussion

Evidence Type	Characteristics	When to Use
Statistical Data	Numerical support Quantitative analysis	Supporting trends Demonstrating patterns
Expert Opinion	Authority citations Field expertise	Theoretical support Professional validation
Case Studies	Real-world examples Detailed analysis	Practical application Concrete illustration

Evidence Integration Exercise

Practice incorporating different types of evidence into your discussion:

Topic: The Impact of Social Media on Mental Health

- 1. Statistical Evidence:
- 2. Expert Opinion:
- 3. Case Study Example:

**Discussion Leadership Skills (35 minutes)**

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**Facilitation Techniques**

Skill	Purpose	Implementation
Discussion Mapping	Track conversation flow	Visual representation of key points
Time Management	Maintain discussion pace	Clear timeframes for each segment
Inclusive Participation	Engage all members	Strategic questioning techniques

**Leadership Practice Scenario**

**Situation: Managing a Complex Discussion**

1. How would you redirect an off-topic discussion?
2. What strategies would you use to encourage quiet participants?
3. How would you mediate conflicting viewpoints?



## Final Reflection & Next Steps

*Complete these final reflections to consolidate your learning.*

### Personal Progress Review

**What I learned today:**

**Areas I want to improve:**

**Strategies I will implement:**

### Action Plan

Goal	Timeline	Success Criteria

