Principles for Participation in an Idea Wave
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Speak only when it is your turn.

Share only one idea, in 10 seconds or less.

Respond using a complete sentence.

Use your "public voice" instead of your "private voice." Speak loudly and slowly enough for everyone to easily hear your comments.

Listen "loudly" (pay careful attention) to what your classmates are saying.

Don't worry about copying new ideas during the discussion. Listen attentively.

If your idea is similar to or builds upon someone else's idea, acknowledge your classmate's contribution before you make your point.
Language Strategies to Acknowledge Other People's Ideas

Casual Conversational English

My idea is like ___________'s idea.

My idea is the same as ___________'s.

Formal Spoken & Written English

Expressing Agreement & Building Upon an Idea:

My idea is similar to/related to _______________'s idea.

My idea builds upon ___________'s idea.

I agree with ___________'s perspective. I also think that...

As __________ already pointed out, it seems like...

____________ already mentioned..., but I would like to add that...

Expressing Polite Disagreement & Providing Reasons:

I don’t entirely agree with __________ that...

My opinion/experience/perspective is different than ___________'s.

My idea is slightly different than ___________'s.
Language Strategies for Active Classroom Participation

Expressing an Opinion
I think/believe that…
It seems to me that…
In my opinion…

Predicting
I guess/predict/imagine that…
Based on…..I infer that…
I hypothesize that….

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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…

Soliciting a Response
What do you think?
We haven’t heard from you yet.
Do you agree?

Acknowledging Ideas
My idea is similar to……
I agree with (a person) that…. I agree with (a person) that…. My idea builds upon ____’s ideas.

Individual Reporting
I discovered from ____that…
I found out from ____that…. ________ pointed out to me that… ________ shared with me that…

Partner/Group Reporting
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…
Language for Reporting in Partners or Groups

✓ We agreed that...
✓ We decided that...
✓ We concluded/came to the conclusion that...
✓ We believe that...
✓ We noticed/observed...
✓ We have different opinions.
  • Some of us believe that...
  • One group member thinks that...
✓ We thought of two different approaches/ideas/answers.....
✓ We could not agree about...
✓ We came up with several different answers/solutions.
✓ Our groups sees it differently that other groups.
✓ Our ideas are similar to the other groups, but we also decided that...