

Useful expressions for oral expression and debate

Introducing a point :

It seems quite clear/obvious that...
I'm sure/ convinced/certain that
The main/ first/ basic most important /
problem/point/idea is/ seems to be
2 arguments support my position/claim
to preview
my position is twofold
what follow is

Concluding

finally
briefly, allow me to recap
throughout this discussion, what I've demonstrated is
that
as a final word
Let me leave you with final thought
Why not conclude with the following note
It all boils down to
To review,
To reiterate
In other words
What is the result of all this?
What does all this mean?
Ultimately, then, To sum up
It would appear, then
At the end of the day, What this question boils down to is

Importance markers

Clearly
I ought to stress that
It has to be underlined/understood that
The core of the argument
Significantly
Specifically
Interestingly
More to the point
Take the case of
The primary concern is

Stalling (for time)

well, as a matter of fact
actually
how shall I put it/ phrase this
let me phrase/formulate/express it this way
I mean to say that

(more confident)
frankly speaking
quite frankly/honestly
to be (perfectly) honest

Giving an opinion, stating preferences:

I think...
In my opinion...
I'd like to...
I'd rather...
I'd prefer...
The way I see it...
As far as I'm concerned...
If it were up to me...
I suppose...
I suspect that...
I'm pretty sure that...
It is fairly certain that...
I'm convinced that...
I honestly feel that, I strongly believe that...
I feel strongly that,

Expressing similarity:

Like ...
As well as ...
Both ... and ...
Just as ...
In the same way, ...
Similarly, ...
Closely related to...is
Comparatively
In a similar way,
Likewise
We can also consider the following
Along the same lines
Of equal concern is
by the same token

Expressing contrast:

While ...
...□ whereas ...
On the other hand, ...
On the contrary

Agreeing:

I entirely agree with his views on ...
I am in complete agreement with ...
I would (strongly) endorse his opinion on ...
My findings support those of ...
I would agree with him in principle, but ...
By and large, I accept what he says, but ...
That's absolutely right
I completely agree with that
I couldn't agree more
That's probably true
I think there's some truth in that
I totally approve of the idea of
Nothing could be more true

Disagreeing:

I don't think that...

Don't you think it would be better...
I don't agree,
I'd prefer...
Shouldn't we consider...
But what about...
I'm afraid I don't agree...
Frankly, I doubt if...
The truth of the matter is...
The problem with your point of view is that...
The fact of the matter is...
I completely disagree with him on this point
I am in total disagreement with ...
(Regretfully), I am unable to accept his conclusion that ..
Let's face it
It is questionable whether
It remains to be seen whether
I have my doubts about, It is debatable
I can't share your point of you on this, I entirely reject all
you say about this
I cannot go along with what you say

Giving an example:

For example
For instance
Let me give an example, Take the case of

Giving an expert opinion:

According to...
To quote...
The book _____ says...

Giving reasons and offering explanations:

To start with
The reason why...
That's why...
For this reason...
That's the reason why...
Many people think...
Considering...
Allowing for the fact that...
When you consider that...
When all is said and done, If one weighs the pros and cons,
In actual fact,
The truth is that

Presenting something which is common sense:

Everyone knows
If...then
It's common knowledge that
It is obvious (to anyone) that
It is well known that/ it is a well-known fact that
The facts speak for themselves:
Few will dispute the claim that
It is undoubtedly/undeniably true that
There is no denying that....

Steering the debate:

I wish to focus on
I would like to turn our attention to...
Let's turn our attention to
It is necessary to consider

We should take into account the following points
We wish to examine in more detail
I think we're getting sidetracked
Can we get back to the question of...?
Can we look more closely at...?
This brings us with the question of whether

Rephrasing and summarizing:

Let me put it in another way
What I mean by that is ...
Let me be more clear
Could you say that another way?
So if I understand you correctly, you are saying that...
Let me summarize our position
all in all, all things considered, briefly, by and large, in
any case, in any event, in brief, , on the whole, in short, in
summary, in the final analysis, in the long run, on balance,
to sum up, to summarize, finally

Making generalizations:

(verbs)
tend (not) to ..., have a tendency to ..., be inclined to
seem to ..., appear to ..., It appears / seems to / that
It would seem / appear to / that ...
On the face of it,
(adverbs of frequency: avoid absolutes like always / never)
usually, normally, generally
regularly, often, frequently
sometimes, occasionally, at times, now and again
rarely, seldom, hardly ever
(modifying adverbs)
mainly, primarily, principally, chiefly, above all,
overall
in general, on the whole, as a rule, largely
for the most part, mostly
especially, particularly, notably
clearly, obviously, evidently, distinctly, plainly,
noticeably
significantly
relatively, comparatively
somewhat, rather, fairly, quite
slightly

starting

To start with, First/firstly, In the first place, Let us begin
with

conceding

Although (+ proposition), Despite/ in spite of (+ nom),
It is certainly true that, but I wonder whether
Undoubtedly, but It may be asserted, however, that
The other side of the coin is, however is that
The two points of view, while distinct,
are not mutually exclusive.
It cannot be denied that .but it remains to be seen whether