

Phrases for Group Discussions and Debates

1. Asking about or for an opinion

Could you tell me?	What do you think about/of?
What's your opinion about ...?	Do you think/feel?
How do you feel about?	May I ask you?

2. Asking for an explanation

Could you explain to me?	Could someone please tell me?
Just tell me the reason why?	I don't really understand?
I just don't see why/what/how	Are you saying that?
What do you mean by that?	I beg your pardon?
I didn't quite get that.	Excuse me, did you say that?

3. Giving your opinion

In my opinion/view	If you ask me
As far as <u>I can see</u> / <i>I'm concerned</i>	It seems to me that
I have the/a feeling that	I think/feel/reckon/believe
Well, I'd say	If you want my opinion
You can take it from me that	<u>First of all</u> / <i>To start with</i> I'd like to point out ...
What we have to decide is	There can be no doubt that
It's a fact that	Nobody will deny that
<u>The way</u> / <i>As I see it</i>	Everyone knows
Let me put it this/another way	Let's get this clear (first)
Sorry to interrupt you, but	The point I'm trying to make is
Personally (speaking) I think	I'm absolutely convinced that
My <u>view</u> / <i>point of view</i> is that	The way I <u>look at</u> / <i>see</i> it is this
What I actually meant was	

4. Giving an explanation

Look, it's like this:	What I mean is
The reason for this is	The main problem is
Just let me explain	Well, the reason is
Well, the thing is	Above all we must keep in mind that

5. Agreeing with an opinion

I (quite) agree.	I agree completely/entirely.
I couldn't agree (with you) more.	I entirely/completely agree with you on that.
That's true/right.	That's just it.
Quite/Exactly/Precisely/Right/Certainly/Definitely.	You're quite/so right.
I think so, too.	I don't think so either.
That's just my feeling/opinion.	That's just how I <u>see it/feel about it, too</u> .
That's a very good/important point.	You've got a good point there.
Yes, <u>of course/definitely/absolutely</u>	Marvelous.
That's exactly what I mean/say.	Yes, that's obvious.
That's exactly how I see it.	That's what I think
How very true.	So do I/So am I
Yes, indeed.	I'm all in favor of what you've been saying.

6. Qualified agreement

Yes, perhaps, but	Yes, possibly, although
Yes, but on the other hand	Yes, up to a point.
I agree up to a certain point, but	Yes, in a way.
Maybe, I suppose so.	Well, it depends.
I don't think it's as simple as that	I see what you mean, but I think that's not the whole story
You may be right there.	Yes, but there's also another aspect to consider

7. Polite disagreement

I disagree (with you), I'm afraid.	No, I really can't agree, I'm afraid.
I don't quite agree there.	I'm not <u>so certain/at all sure</u> if that's true/correct
I'm not (quite) so sure (really).	I'm sorry I can't agree.
Do you really <u>think so/believe that?</u>	I'm not convinced that
Well, that's one way of looking at it, (but)	Well, I have my doubts about that
You can't really mean that.	You don't really mean that, do you?
I wouldn't say so.	I don't think so.
I don't think <u>you're right/that's right</u> .	Surely you don't mean that?
I don't want to argue with you, but	I can't go all the way with you on that point.
Are you seriously suggesting that ...?	I have my problems with what you're saying

8. Strong disagreement

I doubt that very much	I think you got that wrong
Don't you dare say so!	Rubbish!
Bloody hell, no!	Shame on you!
You're pulling my leg!	On the contrary!
That doesn't convince me at all.	You're contradicting yourself.
I've never heard of such a thing.	You're wrong, you know.
You can't be serious!	It's not like that at all!
That's not correct	You're contradicting yourself
You don't understand.	I'm afraid, I don't think you quite understand.
I don't think so, really!	That's not fair!
That's out of the question	I can't believe that I'm afraid
I can't accept your view, that	Do you really think that's a good idea?
I'm afraid, I can't agree with you there	Well, you would, wouldn't you?
Really?	Don't be silly/stupid!
How stupid can you get?	What a silly/stupid thing to say!
That's (simply) not true!	I don't think, you can say
Surely you're not serious, are you?	I doubt it/that very much
You can't be serious!	Oh, come on, think about what you've just said!
I doubt if ...	I've got my doubts about that.
I don't agree with you at all.	I disagree entirely/completely.
Oh, come on, you must be joking/kidding!	That's out of the question
That's not how I see it	It's not as simple as that!
That's no excuse	I believe you're mistaken
That doesn't make sense to me	Let's be sensible about this
You're hopeless/wrong	You won't listen to reason
I think you got that wrong	I'm not impressed
For heaven's sake!	Well that's one way of looking at it, but

9. Making a complaint

I can't quite understand how/why	I've come to complain about ...
I'm disappointed with	I'm fed up with
It really is terrible/ridiculous that	I'm sorry I have to say this, but
Forgive me for mentioning it, but	That's what I want to know.
Do you realize that?	Are you aware that?
I'm disappointed to hear that.	What are you going to do about it?
Something ought to be done about it.	Look, I really must protest about
Can't something be done to/about	

10. Reacting to a complaint

I'm (awfully) sorry to hear that	I really must apologize for this.
Well, there's nothing we can do about that, I'm afraid	This isn't my/our fault, you know.
What do you expect us/me to do?	I'll find out what has happened
I'm sorry you should take it that way.	I'll see what I can do.