Discussion Roles

Discussion roles help students to manage talk and encourage the development of certain speaking and listening skills.

**Instigator**
Starts the discussion or opens up a new topic for discussion
Will say:
- I would like to start by saying ...
- I think we should consider ...
- We haven’t yet talked about ...
- Let’s also think about ...

**Prober**
Digs deeper into the argument, asks for evidence or justification of ideas
Will say:
- What do you think would be the effect of ...
- Why do you think ...
- Can you provide an example to support what you are saying?

**Challenger**
Gives reasons to disagree or presents an alternative argument
Will say:
- I disagree with you because ...
- You mentioned X but what about ...
- To challenge you X, I think ...
- I understand your point of view, but have you thought about ...

**Clarifier**
Simplifies and makes things clearer by asking questions
Will say:
- What do you mean when you say ...
- Can you explain a bit more about ...
- Does that mean ...
- Please can you clarify what you meant by ...

**Summariser**
Identifies the main ideas from the discussion. This might be during the discussion, to help move the conversation forward, or at the end of the discussion.
Will say:
- Overall, the main points were ...
- The main ideas raised today were ...
- Our discussion focused on ...
- The three main things we talked about were ...

**Builder**
Develops, adds to or runs with an idea
Will say:
- I agree, and would like to add ...
- Building on that idea, I think ...
- Linking to what X said, I think ...

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