

# 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..