SENTENCE FRAMES FOR ACADEMIC DISCOURSE
3rd-8th Grade English Language Arts

TIER 1: STUDENTS CLARIFY THEIR OWN THOUGHTS

To introduce evidence:
● According to ________, ________________.
● The author states that _______________.
● An example of ____________ would be ________.

To explain evidence:
● ______________ is an example of __________ because ________________.
● It is clear that __________ because ________________.
● Since ______________, we ________________.
● ______________ illustrates ________________.
● Because of ____________, we can assume ________.

To share opinion:
● I like how the author uses ______ to show ________________.
● I like/don’t like ______ because ________________.
● My opinion is ____________ because ________________.

TIER 2: STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH THE THINKING OF OTHERS

To build on a classmate’s ideas:
● Another example is ________________.
● I’d like to add something. I would say that ____________.
● My idea is related to _____’s idea. I think ________.
● I would like to add that ________________.

To question/clarify to fully understand classmates’ ideas:
● What I think you are saying is ____________. Is that correct?
● Can you tell me more about ____________?
● What do you mean by ____________?
● What evidence do you have to support ________________?
● I did not understand __________. Can you explain what you mean?

TIER 3: STUDENTS CRITIQUE AND ANALYZE THE REASONING OF OTHERS

To agree or disagree with a classmate’s ideas.
● I agree because ____________.
● I agree with ________, and in addition ________________.
● I disagree with ________ because ________________.
● That makes sense because ________________.
● That’s a good point, but I think ________________.
To compare and contrast the effectiveness of different arguments:

- Similar to __________, ________________.
- In contrast to __________, ________________.
- Both _______ and ___________ ________________.
- While _____ shows ______, _______ shows ____________.

To revise thinking based on others arguments:

- I want to change my idea because ________________.
- I want to revise my thinking. I think ________________.
- At first I thought _______ but now I think _______ because ____________.