

## **Sentence stems for promoting respectful contributions to debate**

### **The language of respect.**

**(Pupils could be given a list of these to consider with other sentences from the second list mixed in – which of these might be valuable in conversation and debate?)**

I think the point you are making is important, but I would add .....

I agree with some of the things you have said, but I think ....

A lot of what you are saying is true, but is it not also true to say ...

I understand why you have that view, but I think ....

I agree with your main argument, but I think it also needs to be said ....

That is not a view I share, as I believe .....

I find it hard to agree with the points you are making. I would say that ....

I do not agree with that view. My own view is ....

*And their opposites that can be mixed in for identification:*

As you are a male, it is difficult for you to appreciate this, but the truth is ...

That is a dumb view. I think that.....

You do not understand. The real point is ....

I think that is wrong. I would say....

That just shows your ignorance. The truth of the matter is ....

Why don't you just shut up and let someone else speak?

Being female, I understand why you have a different view, but I would say ....

### **Harvard Sentence stems to use in a debate to promote respectful listening and responding.**

I agree with her because...

I disagree with him because...

It seems to me that...

I am most convinced by...

One question I have is...

I don't understand why...

I don't understand how...

You seem to be arguing that...

What I hear you saying is...

This example may help...

I think that...

To answer this question, we need to know ...

What you said didn't make sense to me because...

I'm not convinced by what you say because...

Let me try to summarize what you have been saying...

In order to make your argument, you are assuming that...

The main issue seems to be...

The main thing that people seem to disagree about is...

You don't seem to be taking into account...

Something that people haven't brought up yet is...