Academic Conversation Manipulatives

**Create a worthy topic**

**How to Use:**
- “Why do you think the author wrote this?”
- “What are some themes that emerged in . . .”

**How to respond:**
- “I think the author wrote it to teach us about . . .”
- “One theme might be . . .”

**Elaborate and clarify**

**How to Use:**
- “Can you elaborate?”
- “What do you mean by . . . . . . .”
- “Can you tell me more about . . . . . . .”
- “What makes you think that?”

**How to respond:**
- “I think it means that . . .”
- “In other words . . .”

**Support ideas with examples**

**How to Use:**
- “Can you give an example?”
- “Can you show me where it says that?”
- “Can you be more specific?”
- “Are there any cases of that?”

**How to respond:**
- “For example . . .”
- “In the text it said that . . .”
- “One case showed that . . .”

*Hand motion*
- Pull hands apart

*Hand motion*
- Index finger of pinky of other hand, palm up
Build on or challenge each other’s idea

How to Use:
“What do you think?”
“Can you add to this idea?”
“Do you agree?”
“What might be other points of view?”

*Hand motion*
Layer hand on each other and build up

Apply/Connect

How to Use:
“So how can we apply this idea to our lives?”
“What can we learn from this character/part/story?”
“If you were…”

*Hand motion*
Hook both hands together

Paraphrase and summarize

How to Use:
“What have we discussed so far?”
“How should we summarize what we talked about?”

*Hand motion*
Cup both hands into a ball

How to respond:
“I would add that…”
“Then again, I think that…”
“I want to expand on your point about…”

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