

Academic Language Functions and Forms

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS	POSSIBLE SENTENCE FRAMES (FORMS)	CUE WORDS	
Agreeing and Disagreeing	I agree with...but... I believe...was right when he said...but... I disagree with...when he said... I don't agree with...I think... I think...was wrong when he said... I agree with...however...	Agree Believe Think Right Wrong	But However Disagree Wrong In favor
Expressing Likes and Dislikes	I like... I want... I love the way... I enjoy... I don't like... I dislike...	Like Enjoy Love Adore	Dislike Hate Do Don't
Identifying	It has... It looks like... It feels like... It sounds like... It tastes like...	Sensory Words: Looks Tastes Feels Smells Sounds (Location)	
Refusing	I will not... I do not want to... He/she did not want to... I wouldn't... I didn't... I am not going to...	Not Wouldn't Didn't Shall not	Won't Will not Cannot Can't
Sequencing	First...then...lastly... At the beginning...next...finally... In the beginning...in the middle...in the end... First...second...third...last	Ordinal Words First End Second Finally Third Next Beginning Then Middle Later Last(ly)	
Wishing and Hoping	I wish... If only I... Maybe I can... I hope... If I had...then...	Hope Wish Maybe If...then	Want Perhaps Crave
Comparing	...is...but...is not... ...has...but...does...not ...can...however... ...can...whereas...cannot Though...can...cannot	But Whereas However Can/cannot	Is/is not Different As opposed to
Classifying	...belongs in this category because... ...is part of this group because... I organized the...by... You can group these together because...	Belongs Part of Group Order	Organize Sort Together
Explaining	...is because... The reason for...is... He/she wasfor example... I would like to clarify that...	Is/is not Because For example	Make clear Such as Clarify

Drawing on the work of: Halliday, M.A.K. (1970) and Gibbons, Pauline (1991)

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Warning	Don't....because... Be careful not to... Watch out for... Stay away from...because... I warned you not to...	Don't Be careful Watch out Caution Stay Away	Inform Advise Notify Alert Warn
Hypothesizing	I think...because... I believe...because... Maybe...is...because... Perhaps...is the reason that... It's possible that...	Think Believe Perhaps Maybe	Assume Possible Imagine
Planning and Predicting	I think...is going to happen because... Perhaps he/she will Maybe he/she will...because in the text it said...	Think Believe Perhaps Maybe	Expect Guess See coming
Commanding	Begin by... First you will...then... Start by...then...finally... Before you begin...then... I order you to...	Start/begin Then/next/finally Order Demand	Command Will Should Do not
Reporting	It all began when... The incident/event took place... It is/was about... What happened was... The real story is that... It all started because...	Tell State Describe Story Details Happened Report	Testify Give and account Convey Inform Recount Inform Event/Incident
Expressing	I would just like to say... I find... I was thinking... I just had a thought... I have an idea... I am sure that... I realize now that...	Think Idea Thought Find/found Sure/unsure	State Communicate Put across Say Realize
Obligating	You have to...because... He was forced to...because... It was necessary because... You must...or else...	Must Force Necessary	Require Make Mandatory
Evaluating	I would have to disagree with...because... I agree that...but... I think... I decided that... Based on what happened, I believe...	Agree Disagree Decided Accept	However Further Furthermore Think
Expressing Position	I support the idea/position that...because... I would agree that... I side with...because... I do not believe that...because... In my opinion...	Support Agree Disagree Opinion	View Side with Position
Expressing Obligation	I must... I feel I have to... I believe it is my responsibility to... I should...because...	Must Obligated Should Responsibility	Duty Commitment Requirement Have to

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Inferring	I believe the author is trying to say that... Even though it doesn't so in the text, I think... The more I think about this passage, I realize that... After reading this page, I think that... I suppose the author is trying to say that...	Infer Believe Think Thought	Assume Understand Suppose Conclude
Suggesting	I would recommend... After listening to/reading...I suggest... I would advise you to... I propose...	Propose Advise Recommend	Suggest
Criticizing	I don't think he/she should...because... I dislike the way... He/she should not have... I disapprove of the way in which... I commend him/her for... I admire how...	Disapprove Dislike Approve Praise	Admire Commend Congratulate Applaud
Other:			

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