

Successful transitions: China – Australia
postgraduate learning in media and communication



Handout 1

USEFUL PHRASES FOR CONTRIBUTING TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS

PARTICIPATING IN GROUP DISCUSSIONS
<http://chinapostgraduates.murdoch.edu.au>

Phrases to use when starting the seminar discussion and for asking someone's opinion:

- ❑ Could I ask...?
- ❑ Could you tell me...?
- ❑ I am interested in...
- ❑ I would like to know...
- ❑ Perhaps you could tell...?
- ❑ What do you think of...?

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/~peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use for politely interrupting:

- ❑ Can I add something?
- ❑ Excuse me for interrupting, but...
- ❑ I would like to say something, if I may...?
- ❑ May I ask a question?
- ❑ May I interrupt for a moment?
- ❑ Sorry, but...

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use when you are explaining your opinion:

- ☐ Another reason is...
- ☐ Besides that...
- ☐ First of all...
- ☐ Secondly...
- ☐ The main reason is...
- ☐ The main thing is...
- ☐ The most important thing is...
- ☐ The other reason is...

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/~peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use when you want to refer to a point in someone's argument:

- ❑ Don't forget that...
- ❑ The point is...
- ❑ The problem is...
- ❑ The problem with...
- ❑ The trouble is...
- ❑ The trouble with...

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/~peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use when you are certain of your opinion:

☐ I am certain that...

☐ I am convinced that...

☐ I am positive...

☐ I am sure that...

☐ I honestly believe that...

☐ I strongly believe that...

☐ It is my opinion that...

☐ Without a doubt...

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/~peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use when you are conveying your own opinion:

- ☐ From my point of view...
- ☐ I personally believe...
- ☐ I personally feel...
- ☐ I personally think...
- ☐ In my case...
- ☐ In my opinion...
- ☐ In my opinion...
- ☐ Not everyone will agree with me, but...
- ☐ Personally

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/~peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use when you want to say something you think is 'new' information:

Do you realise that...

☐ It may sound strange, but...

☐ Surprisingly...

☐ The surprising thing is...

☐ You may not believe it, but...

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Phrases to use when what you are going to say may surprise others:

- ❑ Actually...
- ❑ Frankly...
- ❑ The only thing is...
- ❑ To be honest...
- ❑ To tell you the truth

Adapted from: http://www.nsknet.or.jp/~peterr-s/zemi/kiso_seminar_phrases.html

Phrases to use when you want to change the subject:

- ❑ Before I forget...
- ❑ By the way...
- ❑ Talking of...
- ❑ That reminds me...

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Phrases to use when giving your opinion, but you are not entirely certain:

☐ I am fairly certain that...

☐ I am pretty sure that...

☐ I suppose...

☐ I suspect that...

☐ I think...

☐ I wonder if...

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