Language Functions Tool 2.0

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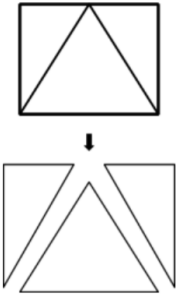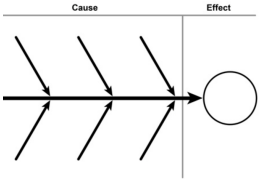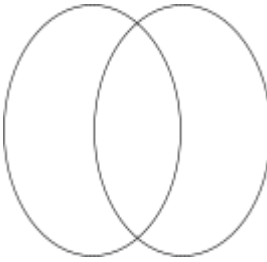
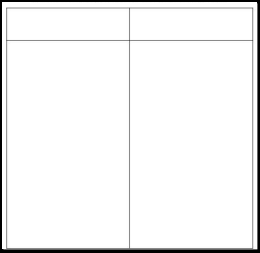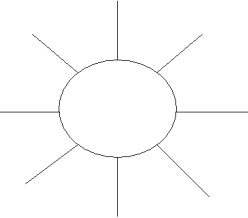**Equity Language Literacy**
www.ELLstudents.com

Co-created by Confianza Director Sarah Bernadette Ottow with several educator groups, including the American International School of Bucharest, Romania and educators in the Boston Public Schools. This tool is also informed by The Collaboration Tool from The MA DESE ESL Next Generation Collaboration Tool of which Ottow was a consultant.
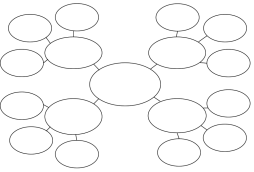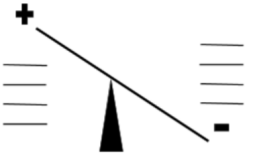
More resources on supporting equity, language and literacy can be found at www.ellstudents.com and in Ottow's book on ELLs/ALLs: The Language Lens for Content Classrooms.
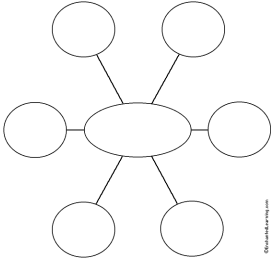
*NOTE: This tool suggests linguistic patterns, ranging from less complex (ELP 1-2) to more complex (ELP 5-6); however, be aware that **these sentence stem ideas below are <u>not</u> prescriptive**. Language acquisition Language acquisition is not a linear process; it varies based on individual factors, domains and sociocultural context. Confianza recommends that teachers create their own language supports based on students' needs, grade level, unit/lesson goals, and other contextual factors. Start with the end in mind by creating **success criteria** (what the ideal response would be) then work backwards to create the frames needed to get there.*

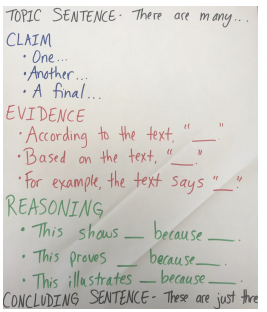| Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Analyze/ Classify *Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure, Group objects or ideas according to their characteristics or features* **KEY WORDS:** Because, supports, important, in fact, for example, specifically, connected to, in common, contrasting with		What is the texture like? Shape? Color? What makes these different/ similar?	What characteristics do these have in common? How could we group…?	Based on …., how would you classify/ analyze…? What types of…are represented here? What traits do these have in common?
		_____ and _____ are similar/ different because… I sorted these by _____. All [don't] have _____. All are [not] _____.	…is an example of… …means the same as… …is similar to… I grouped…and…together because…	We can classify/analyze…according to… A common characteristic of…and…is… One attribute of…is…

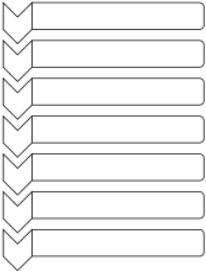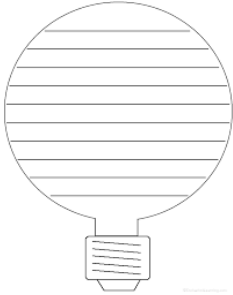| Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Cause/Effect *Show why and how relationships and patterns exist between events, ideas, processes, problems; identify consequences and/or factors that contribute to outcomes* **KEY WORDS:** After, although, as when, while, until because, before, if, since, as a result of, consequently, due to, lead to, resulted in		What happened? What are the effects? What are the causes?	What would happen if…? How does/did this affect…? What caused…to happen? What is the relationship between…and…?	What results/consequences might …create? How might this be different if…? How do they relate to each other? How is…related to…?
		I think…happened because… I believe…caused… The causes/effects are….	The most likely reason for…was… … is the reason for… …occurred because of… …was a result of… …led to . In my opinion,…caused..	…. combined with…to produce… Due to the fact that… In order to… …subsequently…consequently… hence
Compare/ Contrast *Describe similarities and differences between objects and/or ideas* **KEY WORDS:** Comparatives (-er, more), Superlatives (-est, most), but, however, yet, similarly whereas, in common, alike, on the other hand, as opposed to, a distinction between, share the same, compared to, in contrast, contrary, although, while		How are…and…same/different? What makes…the same? What makes…different?	What are the similarities/ differences between…and…? Compare…and… Contract…and…	What comparisons can we make between…and…? How can we differentiate between…and…? Based on your comparisons of…and…, how should we proceed?
		…is… …is/are…more/less than… Both…and….have…	There is a greater quantity of…than… …and…are similar/different because… …and…both have the following traits/features/things in common	According to our comparison of…, we can see that… A distinction between…and…might be… Based on my analysis of…and…,

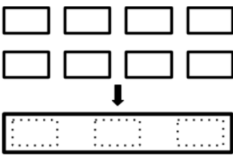| Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Contradict/ Disagree *Express a different opinion/point of view* **KEY WORDS:** on the contrary, therefore, from my point of view, moreover, give reasons, irrelevant, critical, crucial, different, according to, since, in my opinion, despite, but, however, wrong, in favor, right, because, detail, point of view, perspective, although, based on, evidence, it seems to me		Do you agree or disagree? Why? What is your opinion of…? Do you agree with	What evidence could you use to support your claim? Do you agree that…was the only option? Why or why not?	Author x states…; do you agree with author x's assessment? Why or why not? How could you refute…'s claim?
		I disagree with…because… I think…because… I disagree because… I disagree with…	Based on…, it seems to me that… Based on…, I disagree that… I believe…was incorrect when he/she stated that… I do not think…since/because…	Others may say…;'however,… Critics argue that… I was thinking more along the lines of… I do not quite agree with your point about…, because…
Describe *Express or identify the attributes, supporting ideas, or properties of an object, action, event, idea, or solution* **KEY WORDS:** Adjectives, prepositional phrases, first, for example, for instance, another, also, in addition		What is…? Who is…? Where is…?	What happened when…? Why?	Can you tell me the common traits of..?
		The picture shows… _____ represents… I noticed…	…represents… The…has/does not have…and… …happened because of…	Based on…, one can discern that… …, as evidenced by,… …is characterized by…

Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Elaborate/ Explain *Explain, develop, or present an idea/theory/opinion in detail* **KEY WORDS:** *because of, clearly, descriptive, detail, due to, evidence, explicit, for this reason, furthermore, moreover, refer to, through, in fact, as a result*		Can you tell me more about…? What do you think about…?	What makes you think…? Why? Why did you say/write…?	Have you also considered…? How did you get to that answer?
		I think… I believe… I agree/disagree…	I think…because… I agree/disagree because… I think it means that… I would like to add on to…	In other words… The primary reason for…is… I would like to expand your point about… Moreover…Furthermore…Going off…'s point… Due to…
Evaluate *Assess and verify the worth or validity of an object, idea, or decision using relevant evidence* **KEY WORDS:** Comparatives (-er, more), superlatives (-est, most), important, significant, priority, in fact, most importantly, for instance, for example, specifically		What is your favorite…? What is your opinion? Why?	How does this impact…? How would you assess…?	How could you verify…? What can we infer from…? What did you do to develop…? Why?
		I liked/disliked… I believe… I think…	I agree/disagree…because…and… In my opinion,…should…because… Based on work by…, I determined that…	Based on…, I determined that… This could be more effective if… From our assessment, we have determined that…

Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Identify/ Name/ Label *Name, label an object, action, event, idea, fact, problem, need, or process* **KEY WORDS:** Declarative sentences, subject-verb agreement, simple sentences, first, second, third		Locate and label… Match the…to the… Identify the…in the…	What is an example of…? What is…about…? Describe…using specific details.	Based on the research, what would be a viable solution to…? What was the consequence of the protagonist's choice when he…? …would most likely…?
		The characteristics of _____ are… The main idea is… An important detail is…	The characteristics of…are… I think…is a…because… …is the reason because…	The primary reason for…is… Based on…,one can conclude… One of the integral factors is…
Inquire *Observe, question and explore the environment and acquire information* **KEY WORDS:** Who, what, when, where, why, how, environment, information, evidence, understandings, opinion, detail, specific, happened, hypothesis, prediction, refute, confirm, criteria, relationship, irrelevant, important, crucial, critical, evidence, point, attributes, characteristics, main idea	Know / Wonder / Learn	What…? Where…? When…? Who…? I wonder why…?	How do you do that? How does…work? Why did…happen? What do you predict?	Could you be more specific about…? Am I correct in assuming…? What is your hypothesis?
		I think…because… I believe…	The data collected shows… The common characteristics are… I predict that…	If…were to occur,… Thus we can see that… My hypothesis is…

Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Justify *Give reasons for an action, decision, choice, opinion, point of view, to prove a point, and/or convince others* **KEY WORDS:** claim, critical, crucial, debatable, evidence, tone, thesis, include, preclude, irrelevant, relationship, criteria, rationale, reasoning, because of, for this reason, due to, belief, support, evidence, furthermore, moreover, clearly, refer to	TOPIC SENTENCE: There are many... CLAIM • One... • Another... • A final... EVIDENCE • According to the text, "___" • Based on the text, "___" • For example, the text says "___" REASONING • This shows ___ because ___. • This proves ___ because___. • This illustrates ___ because ___ CONCLUDING SENTENCE: These are just thre	Do you agree/disagree with...? What is your opinion about... I think... ...is important My opinion is...	Why do you think...is important? What evidence do you have to prove...? Why is...critical? ...happened because of... I would have...because of... It is clear that... ...is critical because...	How can you convince someone of your ideas? Based upon..., what course of action is needed? In my opinion,...should...because... ...can be justified by... According to... Therefore...Indeed... As...indicates...
Predict *State what may happen in the future based upon observation, experience, or reason* **KEY WORDS:** evidence, supporting, details, implications, reason, observation, guess, conclude that, conclusion, belief, due to, since, in light of, scientific method, correlate, inductive, deductive, causes, effects, outcomes, hypothesis, prediction, theory, conjecture, reasons, result	[Predict / After Reading graphic organizer]	What is going to happen? What will happen? I think... The...is going to... I think...will....	How did...happen? How do you know? What tells you...? I think...will...because... Based on.I think....	What evidence do you have to support...? What would happen if...? Since...occurred, I believe...will occur If...should happen, ...will occur. Based on..., I predict that...

Language Function	Graphic Organizer	Beginner Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Intermediate Question & Answer Stem Ideas	Advanced Question & Answer Stem Ideas
Sequence *Arrange in order to analyze how and why objectives, individuals, events and/or ideas interact and develop over time* **KEY WORDS:** first, second, third, cause, effect, next, before, afterwards, later on, time, not long after/before, now, as when, immediately, preceding, initially, meanwhile, following, until, flashbacks, foreshadow, soon, today, as soon as, at which point, at this time, simultaneously, subsequently, timeline, at which point, cycle, continuum, what happened first, transitions, chronological order, connection, result in		What happened first, second…? What comes next? When was…?	Did…cause…? Why did…happen?	Why is…critical to the development of… Based upon your sequencing of…and…, what should come next?
		First…Next…Then…Last… In the beginning… After that…	…then…and now… After…the next step was… …happened because of…	Immediately before/after… Meanwhile…Finally…Previously…Prior to… Consequently…
State Opinion/ Suggest *Make an argument supported by relevant evidence* **KEY WORDS:** Modal verbs, possibly, maybe, perhaps, what if, can, should, could, would, may, might, consider		Do you agree with…or? Which do you prefer/like: …or…?	Why do you agree/disagree with…? What is important about…?	Based on …and…what is…?
		I like… I think/believe…	I think…because… A piece of evidence that supports…is…	I would argue that… A point often overlooked is… …concluded that… Based on a synthesis of…, it is apparent that…

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Summarize *Provide main ideas and key details to identify, describe, or report information* **KEY WORDS:** Factual language, simple verb tenses, overall, in summary, first, second, then, in conclusion, emphasizes, concludes, indicates, primarily		What did… conclude about…? Why did…?	What is the main idea of…? What happened?	How would you characterize the main character? How would you rewrite this? How would you rearrange…?
		The main idea is… First, Next, Then, Last I learned…	…shows that… I learned…and	In this text, the author… In short…Hence…Thus… …concluded that..