Outlook: Useful Debate Vocabulary

**„I’m listening to the other side.”**

* I see your point, but I think …
* Yes, I understand, but my opinion is that …
* That’s all very interesting, but the problem is that …
* I’m afraid I can’t quite agree with your point.-
* I think I’ve got your point, now let me respond to it.-
* We can see what you’re saying. Here’s my reply …

 **“I need to say something now.”**

* I’m sorry to interrupt, but you’ve misunderstood our point.-
* Excuse me, but that’s not quite correct.-
* Sorry, I just have to disagree with your point.-
* Let me just respond to that, please.-
* Forgive me for interrupting, but I must respond to that.-
* Hold on a moment, that’s not correct.-
* If you would allow me to add a comment here...-
* If you don’t mind, I’d like to take issue with what you just said

**“You haven’t replied yet.”**

* The other side will have to explain why.... otherwise we win that point.
* We said that…but the other side has not replied to our point.-
* I’d like to focus on two points that the other side has failed to address.
* There are two points that we have succeeded in establishing …
* I want to call your attention to an important point that our opponents have not addressed yet.
* I’d like to point out that there are two issues our opponents have failed to dispute, namely …
* I must stress again that our point has not been refuted by the other side.

**“Well, I think that…”**

* The first point I would like to raise is this …
* Our position is the following …
* Here’s the main point I want to raise …
* I’d like to deal with two points here. The first is …
* Our opponents have still not addressed the question we raised a moment ago …
* The other side has failed to answer our point about …
* Notice that the affirmative side has not addressed our main point.
* Let me just restate my position.
* Just to be clear, here is what I mean …

**“So finally, we …”**

* To sum up, here are the main points our opponents have not addressed …
* We pointed out that…
* Our opponents have claimed that …
* To recap the main points …
* Let’s sum up where we stand in this debate.
* Let me summarize our position in this debate.
* In summary, we want to point out that …
* Let’s see which arguments are still standing.
* Let’s take stock of where we are in this debate.

*(These phrases are from Debate and Discussion by David Moser.)*

