Discussion Activity: It All Begins with a Conversation

Read Chapter 12 in *They Say/I Say*, “I Take Your Point,” which focuses on Discussion Strategies (pp. 163-66), and put into practice one or more of the following three moves as you enter classroom conversations. Your classroom teacher will supply discussion prompts.

1. Frame comments as a response to something that has already been said.
   - Ex. I really like Aaron’s point about the two sides being closer than they seem. I’d add that both seem rather moderate.
   - I take your point, Nadia, that ___________________. Still....
   - Though Sheila and Ryan seem to be at odds about ________________, they may actually not be all that far apart. They are both....

2. When changing the subject, say explicitly what you’re doing.
   - Ex. So far we have been talking about the way schools shape a student’s language practices. But isn’t the real issue here the influences that come outside of school?
   - I’d like to change the subject to one that we have not yet discussed....

3. Be even more explicit in oral conversation than in writing.
   - Ex. In other words, what I am trying to get at here is that family and friends influence the way people use words as much or more than schools.
   - My point is this: __________________________.
   - My point, though, is not ________________, But __________________________.
   - This distinction is important because __________________________.