

Discourse Strategies

(Unit 3, page 35)

Asking for and giving reasons

A. Use these expressions to ask for and give reasons for opinions in a discussion. Asking for reasons will help you understand your partner's point of view. Practice saying each.

<u>Asking for reasons</u>	<u>Giving reasons</u>
Why do you say that?	I say that because . . .
What makes you say that?	From what I can see . . .
How come you think that?	Well, in my experience . . .

B. **Pair Work.** Take turns using the prompts below to express your own opinions as conversation starters. Ask for and give reasons for your opinions.

I think our newspapers . . .

- do a great job reporting the news.
- do a poor job reporting the news.

Overall, I think our education system is . . .

- excellent.
- getting better.
- in need of major improvements.

In general, I think deep down most people are basically . . .

- selfish and greedy.
- giving and generous.

Generally, I believe most charities . . .

- do an excellent job.
- spend too much money on advertising and administration.

In my opinion, taxes should be . . .

- reduced and people should use their own money to take care of themselves.
- spent to help those in need.

I think the medical care in our country is . . .

- excellent.
- getting better.
- in need of major improvements.

In general, I think crime is . . .

- on the rise.
- on the decline.

In general, I think art museums are . . .

- pretty useless.
- really important.

Basically, I think politicians . . .

- care deeply about serving people.
- are just in politics to serve themselves.

Your own idea:

C. Now practice asking for and giving reasons as you do the Discussion Builder activities on page 35.