**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.

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

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.