Prewriting Ideas

Use these prewriting ideas to help you find writing topics to write about. These ideas can also help you focus, explore, or narrow your topic.

- **Keeping a writer’s notebook**  What caught your interest today? Describe anything you observed at home or at school, on the Internet or on television that interested you.

- **Observing animals**  Observe your pet, a friend or neighbor’s pet, or some other animal. Write notes describing how the animal looks, acts, and sounds.

- **Talking and listening in pairs**  Work with a partner. Take turns describing your favorite foods. Include details that describe the food’s appearance, texture, smell, and taste. Have your partner guess what you are describing, and vice versa.

- **Brainstorming people**  Quickly list people you could describe. Then list words that describe each person.

- **Brainstorming places**  Quickly list places you have visited. Then add descriptive words for each place.

- **Brainstorming objects**  Work alone or with someone. Write down the names of objects you could describe. Then add words that describe each object.

- **Listing sensory experiences**  Think of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures you have recently experienced. Choose one experience and list words that describe it.

- **Showing and telling**  Present an object to your classmates, and challenge them to describe the object as completely as possible.

- **Looking at art**  Study paintings, photographs, or drawings. Use books, magazines, or newspapers as resources, or visit a local museum. Describe, in notes or to a partner, what you see.

- **Listening to music**  Play the kind of music you like best. Close your eyes and let the melody paint a picture in your mind. Then write notes that describe the picture you envisioned.

- **Dramatizing**  Imagine that you are a character in a movie, book, or television show. Act out a scene from the movie, book, or television show. Have your classmates identify your character.