

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.

