

Prewriting Ideas

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

- ▶ **Brainstorming** Work with a friend. Brainstorm a list of important social issues that affect the lives of many people. Choose one issue, and discuss what individuals, organizations, and governments could do about it.
- ▶ **Talking and listening in groups** Pose a problem that exists in your town, city, state, or country. With a group of classmates talk about possible solutions.
- ▶ **Debating** Debate two opposing solutions to a common problem. Choose two classmates to help you argue for one of those solutions. Let three classmates argue for the other solution.
- ▶ **Watching TV** Work with a partner or a small group. Watch the nightly news. Then meet with your partner or group to discuss possible solutions to serious problems that face people today.
- ▶ **Discussing** Form a panel of classroom “experts” who know about ways to solve a problem. Perhaps they have researched or had experience with the problem. Have the panel address the class and then participate in a question-and-answer period.
- ▶ **Observing** Look around your school or neighborhood. Note what you see that needs improvement, and tell what people can do to bring about that improvement.
- ▶ **Listing** Make a list of unwise or unhealthy habits that people have. Then give reasons why they should break these habits.
- ▶ **Reading magazines, books, newspapers** Read about ways that people have solved problems in their lives. Do you think their solutions would work for others? Tell why.

