

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.

- ▶ **Reading** Open one of your favorite books to a random page, and read a page or two. Look for mentions of objects, characters, or events that you might compare to other objects, characters, or events. Choose an idea and develop it with details.
- ▶ **Surfing the Net** Surf the Internet for fifteen minutes, looking for topics that interest you. Find two topics that have something in common, and compare and contrast them.
- ▶ **Scanning the TV program guide** Skim the TV program guide for your favorite shows. Jot down characters from two different shows that have some similarities. List as many details as you can that show similarities and differences between the two characters.
- ▶ **Skimming the Comics** Read the cartoon section in your local newspaper. Choose two cartoon characters that have something in common. Compare and contrast the characters.
- ▶ **Listening to music** Listen to some CDs or to the radio, and try to identify two artists or songs you can compare. Pick two subjects that have enough in common for an interesting comparison.
- ▶ **Observing** Walk around your neighborhood with a small notebook. Jot down anything you see that you can compare to something else. For instance, you might compare two cars, two species of trees, or two apartment or public buildings. List details that you can compare.
- ▶ **Quick-writing** Quickly list as many different places as you can. Review your ideas, and select two places that you can compare and contrast. Make a list of details describing similarities and differences between the places.

