

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** With a small group discuss a question that has many possible answers, such as, “What is the most important quality you look for in a friend?” Give everyone a chance to state and support his or her opinion.

► **Forming opinions** With a friend, share what you think about a school or community event. Give reasons. Have your friend do the same.

► **Listing** Make a list of topics that have both advantages and disadvantages. Add to your list when you think of additional topics.

► **Discussing** Form a panel of students who share an opinion about a topic and a second panel who share an opposing opinion about the same topic. Have the panels discuss their opinions and invite questions from the audience. Think about where you stand on the topic being discussed.

► **Polling classmates** Poll your classmates concerning what they like and dislike about school. Make sure your classmates give reasons that explain why they like or dislike certain things.

► **Interviewing** Work with a group. Have each group member interview someone whom he or she considers successful. Members then report back to the group and share what they have learned. As a group, form opinions about what makes a successful person.

► **Observing** Look around your school, neighborhood, community, or state. What do you like best about where you live? Give reasons to support your opinion.

► **Reading columns in magazines, newspapers, and on the Internet** Read about other people’s opinions. Do you agree or disagree with them? Tell why.

► **Listening to the radio** Listen to a variety of radio hosts or announcers who give opinions about what is happening in the news. What are some current events about which you have an opinion? Keep a list of topics.

Topics
recycling
riding my bike to school
playing computer games

