

Prewriting Ideas

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

▶ **Brainstorming people** Quickly list the names of people you could describe. Then list words that describe each person.

▶ **Brainstorming places** Quickly list the names of places you have visited. Then list words that describe each place.

▶ **Free-associating** Write the word *cheery*, *dreary*, *scary*, or *weary*. Then write the first word, phrase, or sentence that comes to mind. Keep writing until a description begins to take shape.

	weary
	tired
	sleepy
	sleepy summer afternoons

▶ **Remembering sensory experiences** Think of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures you have experienced. Then choose one and describe it.

▶ **Talking and listening in pairs** Choose a partner and describe an object or a person to him or her. Then ask your partner to name the object or person. Reverse roles and repeat this process.



▶ **Showing and telling** Present an object to your classmates. Then ask them to describe it as completely as possible.

▶ **Taking notes** Choose a subject you wish to describe. Research the topic and take notes from your reading or your observations. List sensory details and special characteristics of the topic.

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

▶ **Listening to music** Listen to a piece of music you like. Close your eyes and let the melody paint a picture for you. Then describe the people or scenes you imagined.

▶ **Dramatizing** Pretend to be a character in a play. Act out a scene. Then have your classmates describe the kind of character you are.

▶ **Observing** Carefully study a flower, insect, animal, or fountain. Then write notes about how it looks, sounds, smells, feels, behaves, or changes.