

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.

- ▶ **Setting goals** Work with a friend. Tell each other what you think should happen to correct a problem that affects the lives of many people. Discuss what individuals, organizations, and governments might do about the problem.
- ▶ **Talking and listening in groups** Pose a problem that exists in your school, neighborhood, town, city, state, or country. Form small groups and talk about possible solutions.
- ▶ **Debating** Debate two opposing solutions to the same problem. Choose two classmates to help you argue for one of those solutions. Let three classmates argue for the other solution.
- ▶ **Panel discussions** Form a panel of classroom “experts” who have solutions to a particular problem. Perhaps they researched or had experience with the problem. Have the panel address the class and then participate in a question-and-answer period.
- ▶ **Role-playing** Suppose you are a person who needs help with a problem. Think of three organizations and/or individuals you might turn to for help. Ask three class members to role-play those organizations and/or individuals. Then together devise a solution to your problem.
- ▶ **Observing** Look around your community or state. 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 elaborate with reasons, supported by facts and examples, why people should break these habits.
- ▶ **Reading magazines, books, newspapers** Read about ways that people have solved problems. Do you think the way they solved their problems might work in other similar situations? Tell why.
- ▶ **Improvising** Work with the entire class or a small group. The teacher or a designated student will give you a “problem.” List solutions to the problem.

