

# 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 books, magazines, newspapers** Look through printed materials for interesting articles and ideas. Note fashions, inventions, trends, and ideas you would like to know more about. Then choose one topic and make a list of information you would like to learn about it.
- ▶ **Listing interests** List things that interest you: hobbies, sports, games, art, music, politics, etc. Choose one topic and note questions to research.
- ▶ **Brainstorming** Write the name of an idea, a process, a person, a place, or a thing that interests you. Quickly write what you know about the subject. Then quickly list what you would like to learn.
- ▶ **Discussing** Circulate around the room, talking to various classmates. Discuss the topics you would like to research for a report, and listen to classmates' questions and suggestions.

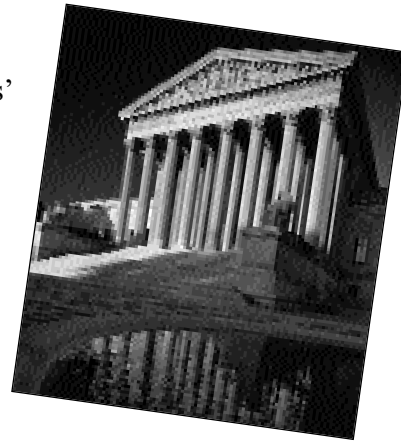
## Possible Report Topics

Bats – I have seen them outside my bedroom window.

Revolutionary Weapons – Dad has a rifle from the 1700s.

Soccer – my favorite sport

Mayfield Park – I think the building there is historic, and I like watching the peacocks there.



- ▶ **Showing and telling** Bring to class an object or a picture of something you would like to write a research report about. Tell the class what you plan to present in your report, and ask for questions and ideas.
- ▶ **Observing** Look around your classroom, home, or neighborhood to find ideas for report topics. Note objects, activities, and ideas you could report on. Choose one topic and write questions you have about it.
- ▶ **Outlining** Write down a topic you would like to research. Below this, write in outline form the main points and subpoints you will cover.
- ▶ **Looking at art** Study paintings, sculptures, drawings, or photographs. List what you would like to know about one of the artists, photographers, or subjects depicted. Then note where you might find that information.

Artist: Steven Altman

Artwork: painting

Subject: I can't really tell.

Notes: I wonder what he was thinking as he painted.

Research: [www.artfit.com](http://www.artfit.com)