

Prewriting Ideas

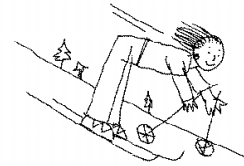
Use these prewriting ideas to help you find topics to write about. These ideas can also help you focus, explore, or narrow your topic.

- ▶ **Brainstorming places** Quickly list places you have visited that you like or dislike intensely. Then add why you went to each place and what happened to make you feel as you do.
- ▶ **Free-associating** Write the word *sports*, *music*, *money*, or *work*. Then write the next word that comes to mind. Keep writing until you are reminded of a story about yourself.

sports—baseball—going to a game with my uncle

- ▶ **Brainstorming people** Quickly list names of people you like or admire very much. Then give details about your experiences with each person.
- ▶ **Drawing** Sketch a happy, sad, scary, or funny picture of a personal experience. Then make notes about how you could develop the picture into a story.

first day –
cold, scared
second day – warmer
and more confident
end of the week –
having a blast!



- ▶ **Telling stories** Tell a person or a group a story about something you did. Make the story as interesting as you can. Encourage listeners to ask questions and make suggestions.
- ▶ **Looking at art** Look at paintings, photographs, or pictures in magazines and newspapers. Find one that reminds you of a personal experience, and begin making notes about the experience.
- ▶ **Being interviewed** Pretend that you are famous and are being interviewed on television. The interviewer asks, “What has been the most important event in your life so far?” Write your answer.

