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.

  - "Well, I’d have to say, the first time I hit a grand slam.”