

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.

- ▶ **Listening** Notice opinions expressed by the people around you at school and at home. List some of those opinions. Consider which ones might make interesting essay topics.
- ▶ **Listing** List all the tasks you had to complete yesterday. Put a plus by each one about which you have a positive feeling and a minus by each one about which you have a negative feeling. Pick one of these tasks, and think about the reasons for your feelings.
- ▶ **Talking and listening in groups** With several other people, select a broad topic, such as sports or technology. Brainstorm narrower topics that fit into that category, such as school soccer or shopping for gifts on the Internet. Talk about group members' opinions of these topics.
- ▶ **Searching** Look at some news Web sites selected by your teacher. Read some articles from these sites that attract your attention, and note your opinions about the issues discussed.
- ▶ **Brainstorming** With a small group, discuss a question that has many possible answers. One example is, "What is the most important quality for success in life?" Give everyone a chance to respond and to support his or her opinion.
- ▶ **Surveying** Survey several classmates to find out what issues they have strong opinions about. Choose an issue that would be interesting to discuss in an essay.



- ▶ **Role-playing** Work in small groups. Have each student take a turn mentioning an activity, such as a sport, a game, or a hobby. Have the other students in the group use facial expressions to show their opinions about the activity mentioned. Then call on each student to explain his or her opinion and give reasons for the opinion.