Prewriting Ideas

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

- **Listing your interests**  List things you like to do, such as hobbies, sports, games, art, and music. Choose one topic you would like to write about. Then list what you would like to learn about the topic.

- **Reading**  Search books, magazines, and newspapers for interesting topics. List inventions and events you would like to know more about. Choose one topic and list what you would like to know about it.

- **Brainstorming**  Write the name of a person, place, or thing that interests you. Then, as fast as you can, write questions about the topic.

- **Showing and telling**  Bring to class an object or a picture of something you would like to research. Show the class what you plan to write about in your report. Ask your classmates what they would like to know about your topic.

- **Observing**  Look around your classroom, school, or home. Note things and activities you could write a report about. Choose one topic that interests you the most. List questions you would like to answer about your topic.

- **Looking at art**  Study a painting, drawing, or photograph. List what you would like to know about the artist, the place shown, or the people and things in the picture. Then think about where you might find that information.

- **Outlining**  Write the name of the topic you would like to research. Then list the main questions you will try to answer.