Prewriting Ideas: Opinion Essay

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

 ► Using newspapers and magazines Search newspapers and magazines for topics you have opinions about. You might list types of music, kinds of pets, types of weather, and so on. Draw a star next to the topic you have the strongest opinion about.

 ► Listing hobbies List things you like to do, such as sports, games, art, or music. Choose the one you like best. Quickly list reasons why.

 ► Writing what’s next Write the words good food or bad food. Then write the word you think of next. Keep writing new words until an opinion begins to form.

 ► Talking and listening in pairs Work with a partner. What ideas does your partner have strong opinions about? Discuss the answers. Jot ideas the two of you come up with.

 ► Looking at art Look at some paintings, drawings, or photographs. Which ones do you really like? Which ones do you not like? Why? Quickly write your reasons.

 ► Brainstorming reasons Write the words happy and angry at the top of a sheet of paper. Under happy, write reasons why you sometimes feel happy. Under angry, write reasons why you sometimes feel angry. Write as quickly as you can. Read the reasons to find ideas for an opinion essay.

 ► Reading journal entries Look in your journal for opinions you have written. Choose one opinion and list reasons that support it.

 ► Choosing a person Think about people in your class, at home, at school, or in your city or town. Who has helped you the most to do your best? Why did you choose this person? List your reasons.