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.

▶ **Brainstorming settings**  Work alone, with a partner, or with a small group. Quickly list exciting, scary, or unusual places where stories can take place.

▶ **Brainstorming characters**  Quickly list five people you know. List one interesting thing about each person. Then create a character that combines all five interesting things.

▶ **Drawing**  Draw a picture that shows one or more people or animals doing something. Then tell what happens next.

▶ **Role-playing**  Act out the role of the main character in a story that you have read. Have two or three students play other characters. As you go along, add your own ideas and changes to the story.

▶ **Looking at art**  Look at paintings, drawings, and photographs. Tell the stories you see in the pictures.

▶ **Using newspaper stories**  Bring to class stories or pictures from newspapers or magazines. Then think of an interesting story of your own. You can use the same people, places, or problems. Make your story different from the one in the newspaper.