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.

- **Role-playing**  Play the role of a teacher. Work with a partner who will play your student. Teach your student how to make or do something. Then reverse roles with your partner.

- **Listing what you know**  Quickly list things you know how to do. Then choose one activity and explain it to the class.

- **Drawing**  Draw pictures to show how to do or make something. Then add words below the pictures to explain more about the pictures.

- **Showing and telling**  Bring to class an object or a picture. Show it to the class and tell how to make it or use it.

- **Thinking about machines**  What machines do you know how to use? A VCR? A tape recorder? A telephone answering machine? Think of a machine you use that others might like to learn about.

- **Taking notes**  Interview an expert to learn about something you would like to do. Take notes on the supplies and materials you will need. List the steps you will follow.

- **Pantomiming**  Mime for your classmates how to do or make something. Invite classmates to ask questions about steps they do not understand. Answer without using any words.