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.

- **Role-playing** Imagine you are any person, place, idea, or object. Let your partner be another person, place, idea, or object that you are comparing yourself with. Then tell how you are like and different from your partner.

- **Listing** List pairs of things you would like to compare, such as two foods, two games, or two books. Choose a pair that interests you. Under the headings *Like* and *Different*, list their likenesses and differences.

- **Reading** Look for people or things to compare when reading books, magazines, newspapers, advertisements, or other printed matter. Write notes about similarities and differences.

- **Drawing** Draw a picture of two people or objects to show how they are alike and different. Then list comparisons and contrasts.

- **Debating** Choose a pair of people or objects to compare. Working with a partner, argue that the people or objects are alike, and explain why. Have your partner argue that they are different.

- **Observing** Pay close attention to people or things in your classroom, school, neighborhood, or home that you find interesting to compare. Take notes on ways in which they are alike and different.

- **Looking at art** Study paintings, drawings, photographs, or sculptures by one artist. Choose two pieces of art and note how the pieces are alike and different.

- **Showing and telling** Bring to class an object or a picture of an object. Show it to the class and tell how that object is similar to and different from another object.