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.

► **Reading** Find ideas for reports in books, magazines, and newspapers. Keep a folder of clippings about inventions, trends, events, and ideas you would like to know more about.

► **Watching television** Watch news features and documentaries and note topics that interest you. Then choose one topic and write questions you have about it.

► **Listing interests** List things you like to do, such as hobbies, sports, music, crafts, or other activities. Then choose one activity and list questions you have about it.

► **Talking and listening in pairs** Choose a partner and tell him or her about a topic you want to research. Then let him or her ask questions about the topic. Make a list of the information you want to research.

► **Surfing the Internet** Use a search engine to research topics that interest you. Print out interesting articles and then back them up with research from the library.

► **Showing and telling** Bring to class an object or a picture of a person you would like to write a research report about. Tell the class what information you plan to present in your report. Listen to your classmates’ questions and ideas.

► **Outlining** Write an outline of the topic you would like to research. List the main questions and details you will cover.

► **Looking at art** Study paintings, drawings, sculptures, or photographs. List questions you have about the artists, places, or people shown in the works or about the processes used to produce the pieces. Then note where you might search for that information.

► **Observing** Look around your classroom, home, or neighborhood for research topics. Then choose the topic that interests you the most and write questions about it.