Prewriting Ideas

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

► Debating  Choose two classmates for your team and three classmates for the opposing team. Discuss a common problem. Have your team propose one solution and explain why it would work. Then have the other team propose a second solution and explain why it would work better.

► Discussing  Form a panel of “experts” from among your classmates. Choose students who have had experience with or have researched a certain problem. Then have the panel speak to the class and answer questions.

► Listing  List habits that are unpleasant or unhealthy. Note reasons to avoid such behaviors.

► Taking notes  List problems you have observed or heard or read about. Then note solutions that have been proposed. Give your opinion as to which solutions would work, and explain why you think as you do.

► Reading  By reading books, magazines, and newspapers, discover ways that people have solved problems. Then tell whether you think that these solutions would work for other people and explain why you think as you do.

► Interviewing  Work with a group. Have each group member interview someone whom he or she considers successful. Members then report back to the group and share what they have learned. As a group, form opinions about what makes a successful person. Support each opinion with an example from one interviewee’s life.

► Making a list  Make a list of things you would like to do but have never done. Then give as many reasons as you can think of that tell why each activity would be fun or interesting.

► Listing and researching  List several people you know who have strong opinions about issues. Ask them to share their opinions and to give reasons for them. Research the issues and form your own opinions about them.

1. Not exercising
2. Eating junk food
3. Watching too much TV