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.

- **Brainstorming topics**  Work with a small group to discuss the most pressing problems in the world, the nation, or your community. Discuss possible solutions and their strengths and weaknesses.

- **Talking and listening in groups**  Tell members of a small group how you would solve a problem in your school, neighborhood, or community. Then listen to their objections and ideas.

- **Observing**  Look for situations in your community or state that need improvement. Then note what people can do to improve each situation.

- **Interviewing**  Interview someone who is an expert in a certain field, such as a scientist, a businessperson, a teacher, or a coach. Ask the person to tell you about a problem in his or her field and possible solutions to that problem.

- **Wishing**  In a small group, make a list of ten changes that would make the world a better place. Then choose one change and decide how to persuade people to take action to make it happen.

- **Remembering lessons learned**  Think about a time you persuaded someone to let you do something. Think about the arguments you used and why they were successful.

- **Reading**  Read the newspaper and form solutions to the problems you read about. Then think about how you might persuade someone to act on your solutions.

- **Listening to arguments**  Listen to television and radio broadcasts in which people explain problems and try to persuade others to support certain solutions. Think about whether you agree with their solutions.

- **Debating**  With a partner, choose a problem to debate. Each of you argue that your solution is better and tell why.