

## Tapping Into Topics

### Purpose

Students will create an ongoing idea list for writing.

### Materials

*For the teacher:* chart paper, markers

*For the students:* paper or notebooks

### Activity

#### A. Pre-Activity Preparation

Prepare the classroom writing idea chart. Label it “Topics We Want to Write About.”

#### B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Discuss where writers and authors get their ideas.
2. Allow students to share their thinking on this topic.
3. Inform students that often their ideas come from everyday experiences that they have had.
4. Explain to students that the chart *Topics We Want to Write About* will be kept up in the classroom all year.
5. Inform students that teachers and students may add topics to it throughout the day that anybody may want to write about.
6. Demonstrate how students should write ideas on the chart (e.g., numbered, in columns, written in marker or pen, size of letters, etc.).

#### C. Activity

1. Have students share their ideas with the class while you record them on the chart.
2. Require students to keep a personal topic list in their writing folder. This topic list may be in the form of a steno note pad, spiral notebook, or loose sheets of paper.
3. Give students time, on a regular basis, to write down their ideas on their personal list.

(continued)

### EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY



As students become more familiar with the different types of writing, have them organize their individual and group idea charts by categories, such as personal narrative, fiction, research topics, nonfiction, etc. Have students rewrite the class chart before second semester, placing the ideas on smaller lists under each category.

### connecting across the curriculum



#### Social Studies

Take time during Social Studies to have students record ideas or topics regarding Social Studies on their writing lists. Questions students have often make good research topics.

### Standards Link 2.4.3

**Activity (continued)** 

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**D. Close the Activity**

1. Require students to list a category of the week (e.g., childhood memories, animal experiences, trips, fears, firsts, playground experiences, etc.).
2. Take students outside to gather topic ideas from nature, the neighborhood, or the school playground.

**Questions for Review** 

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**Basic Concepts and Processes**

Ask students the following questions to assess their understanding of the purpose for keeping a list of ideas for writing:



Where do writers get their ideas for stories?



Can you give me some examples of topics for a writing idea list?



How did you get your ideas?

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