**Pre-Writing: Getting Ready to Write**

**What is pre-writing?**

Before you begin writing, you decide what you are going to write about. Then, you plan what you are going to write. This process is called pre-writing.

**Choosing and narrowing a topic**

**How to choose a topic for a paragraph?**

A paragraph is a group of five to ten sentences that give information about a topic. Before you write, you must choose a topic for your paragraph.

* Choose a topic that isn't too narrow (limited, brief). A narrow topic will not have enough ideas to write about. ***The ages of my brothers and sisters,*** is too narrow. You can't write very much about it.
* Choose a topic that isn't too broad (general). A broad topic will have too many ideas for just one paragraph. Most paragraphs are five to ten sentences long. ***Schools,*** is too general. There are thousands of things you could say about it.

A student could narrow this topic by choosing one aspect of schools to discuss, for example:

- Secondary schools in my country.

- Popular school clubs.

- University entrance exams.