

# IDEAS

**ANY ACTIVITY THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO PRACTICE...**

Prewriting

Generating ideas from thought/experience

Borrowing ideas from other writers

Keeping writer's notebooks

Knowing the purpose for writing

Moving from broad topic to focused theme

Learning to observe carefully

Developing thinking skills (comparison, analysis, inference)

## 1. THE ROCK

Students bring a favorite rock to class (it's OK to find one enroute!) and select a partner. One person from each pair gets one minute to talk about his/her rock-then it's the other person's turn to talk for one minute. After talking, students write for two minutes, then share what they have written in pairs, small groups or with the large group (as appropriate). Here's a great resource to stimulate thinking: Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor.

