

Prewriting: **Examine Your Topic from Different Angles**

1. How can I describe my subject? What does it look, smell, taste, sound, and feel like?
2. How can I compare and contrast my subject? What is it like, and what is it different from? Are the similarities and differences important?
3. What do I associate my subject with? What does it make me or others think of? What is it related to? What does it develop from or lead to?
4. How can I analyze my subject? How is it broken down? How does it work? What is it made of? Why is it important? Is it part of something bigger?
5. How can I apply my subject? What is it good for? Who would find it useful? When is it useful? Does it have social economic or political value?
6. What arguments accompany my subject? What are the reasons for it? What are the reasons against it? Who is for it? Who is against it?

—Barbara Fine Clouse, *Working it Out*, 1997