

## THE RULE OF WRITE ABOUT A PEBBLE

Don't write about a general idea or topic; write about a specific, observable person, place, occasion, time, object, animal, or experience. Its essence will lie in the sensory images the writer evokes: observed details of sight, sound, smell, touch, taste; and strong verbs that bring the details to life.

Don't write about \_\_\_\_\_. Write about *a* \_\_\_\_\_.  
(pebbles) (pebble)

Don't write about *fall*. Write about *this fall day*. Go to the window; go outside.

Don't write about *sunsets*. Write about *the amazing sunset you saw last night*.

Don't write about *dogs* or *kittens*. Observe and write about *your dog*, *your kitten*.

Don't write about *friendship*. Write about *your friend*, about what he or she does to be a good friend to you.

Don't write about *love*. Write specifically about *someone or something* you love: these are the greatest love poems.

Don't write about *sailing*. Remember and write about *a time you went sailing*.

Don't write about *babies*. Write about *your baby sister*, *your baby cousin*.

Don't write about *reading*. Write about *your experience reading one book*.

Don't write about *pumpkins*. Write about *the pumpkin you carved last night*, *the pumpkin you grew from seeds*, *your family's jack-o'-lantern that the bad high school boys smashed on the road*.