

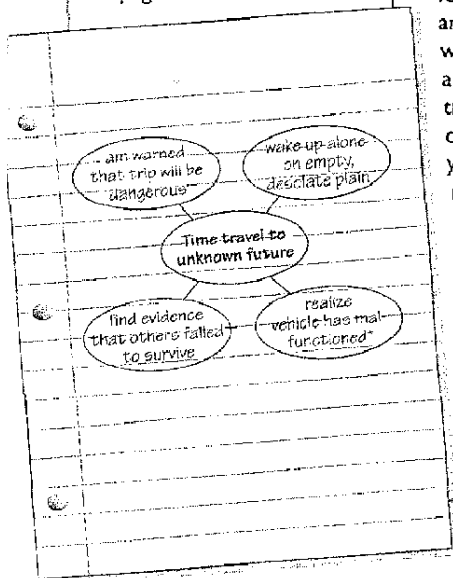
# CHOICES: Building Your Portfolio

## Writer's Notebook

### 1. Collecting Ideas for a Short Narrative

#### Listing main events.

Bradbury's story might have given you ideas for a short narrative of your own. Before you write any narrative, you should have some main events in mind. Suppose you want to write about time travel. First jot down some places in the past or future that you'd like to travel to. Then, list the major events you'd include. You might start the event you'd make the climax. Put your events in chronological order—the order in which they happen. Save your notes for the Writer's Workshop on page 112.



## News Writing

### 2. And This Just In

Suppose you are a TV news reporter. Word has just come into the newsroom of what happened in the office of Time Safari, Inc. Your assignment is to write an account of what happened to Eckels. In the lead (opening paragraphs) of your news report, answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? The rest of your report should fill in the details. Remember that you are writing during the rule of a dictator who might not believe in freedom of the press. How honest can you be?

## Creative Writing

### 3. Target a Time

You're entering an essay contest with a grand prize of a time-travel journey to the destination of your choice. Tell exactly where you'd like to go and when (pinpoint a year in the future or the past)—and why. What do you want to accomplish when you reach your destination? Write a few sentences describing what you imagine you will see when you arrive. Check your Quickwrite notes.



## Research/Science

### 4. Dinosaur Data

What do we know about dinosaurs? With a partner, research a limited topic relating to dinosaurs, and share your findings with the class. You might want to illustrate your findings. Here are some possible topics:

- the life and times of one species of dinosaur
- theories of why the dinosaurs disappeared
- what paleontologists (scientists who study fossils) do and how they do it

## Creative Writing

### 5. A Dinosaur Encounter

Both Bradbury's "A Sound of Thunder" and the excerpt from Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park* (see *Connections* on page 45) portray fictional encounters with dinosaurs. Write your own dinosaur story. What kinds of dinosaurs will you use? What exactly will they look like? No human beings were living during the dinosaur era, so you will have to invent some way for humans and monsters to come together. Help your readers feel they are there—use details to help them see, smell, and hear the scene.

Verbs Play Active and Passive Roles

Like people, action verbs have a voice. A verb in the **active voice** expresses an action performed by its subject: *Tina sent her reply.* A verb in the **passive voice** expresses an action done to its subject: *The reply was sent by Tina.*

Which of these are active verbs, and which are passive?

1. "Six Safari leaders were killed. . . ."
2. "The Machine slowed; its scream fell to a murmur."
3. "This machine, this Path, your clothing and bodies, were sterilized, as you know, before the journey."
4. "When such occasions threaten, Time steps aside."

The active voice is strong and direct. A verb in the passive voice sounds weak partly because it always needs a helping verb. The passive voice is useful, however, when the writer doesn't know who or what performed the action (*My bicycle was stolen*) or when the writer doesn't want readers to know who performed the action (*The TV was left on*).

Try It Out

Make each sentence stronger and more direct by changing the verb from the passive voice to the active voice. Notice how the active voice results in shorter, more vigorous sentences.

1. The idea of hunting the dinosaur was abandoned by Eckels.
2. The dinosaur's footsteps could be heard and felt by the hunters.
3. The silence was shattered by the dinosaur's terrible scream.
4. The story has been reviewed favorably by most students.

Language Handbook HELP

See Active and Passive Voice, page 1000.

Technology HELP

See Language Workshop CD-ROM. Key word entry: active voice.

VOCABULARY

HOW TO OWN A WORD

WORD BANK

- annihilate
- expandable
- teeming
- paradox
- resilient
- remic
- undulate
- revoke
- primeval
- subliminal

Context Clues

**Context clues** can help you guess at the meanings of unfamiliar words. Find where the words in the Word Bank are used in the story. See if you can find context clues that hint at their meaning. Put your findings in a diagram, like the one here for *annihilate*.

. . . "Say we accidentally kill one mouse here. That means all the future families of this . . . mouse are destroyed, right?" . . .

"And all the families of the families of the families of that one mouse! With a stamp of your foot, you annihilate a billion possible mice!"

verb *kill* used first—one mouse

verb *destroyed* used next—all future families

another clue that *annihilate* means "kill"

*Annihilate* is a verb. Probably means "to kill a huge number—a billion!"