

Station 1: A in ARMS is for ADD

Plant new flowers in your writing!

Let's Grow Some Ideas!

Welcome, writers! 🌿 This station is all about **Adding Details** and **Descriptions** to make your writing bloom! Think of your writing like a garden. It needs more than just the basic seeds – it needs flowers, buzzing bees, and sunshine to truly thrive!

Your Mission: Add at least **two** new details, examples, or descriptive words to your writing piece. These additions should act like fertilizer, helping your ideas grow stronger and more vibrant.

Reflection Questions

- What could I add to make this clearer or more interesting? 🤔
- Did I include enough information for the reader to understand completely? 🤔

Keep these questions in mind as you add to your writing. Imagine your reader as a little seedling – they need to be nurtured with information!

Tips for Planting!

Details: Think about the five senses! What does your subject *look*, *sound*, *smell*, *taste*, or *feel* like?

Examples: Provide specific instances to support your ideas. Instead of saying "He was angry," say "He slammed the door and his face turned red."

Descriptive Words: Use adjectives and adverbs to paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind.

Instead of saying "The dog ran," say "The scruffy dog darted eagerly."

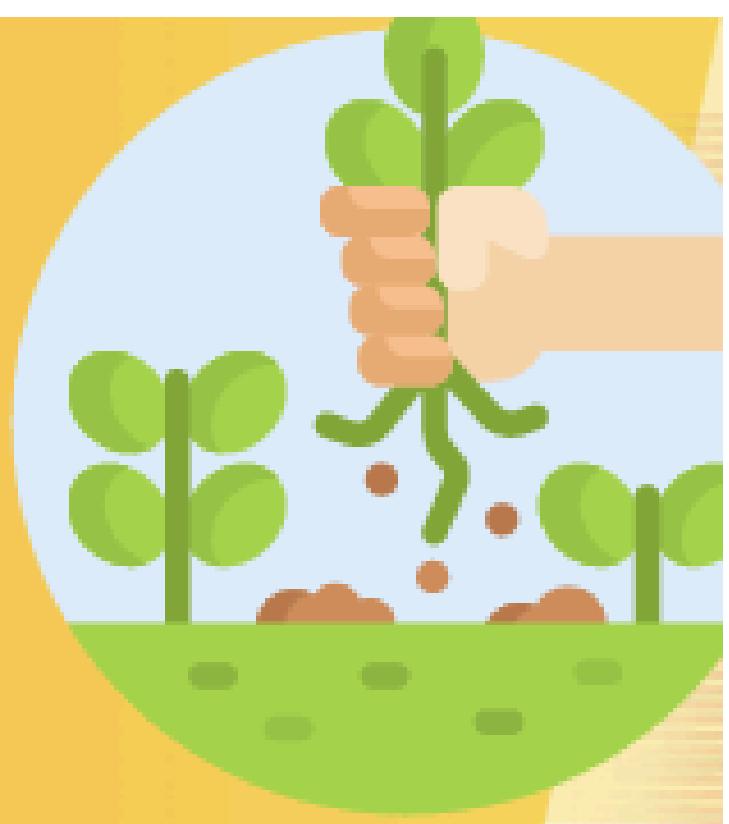
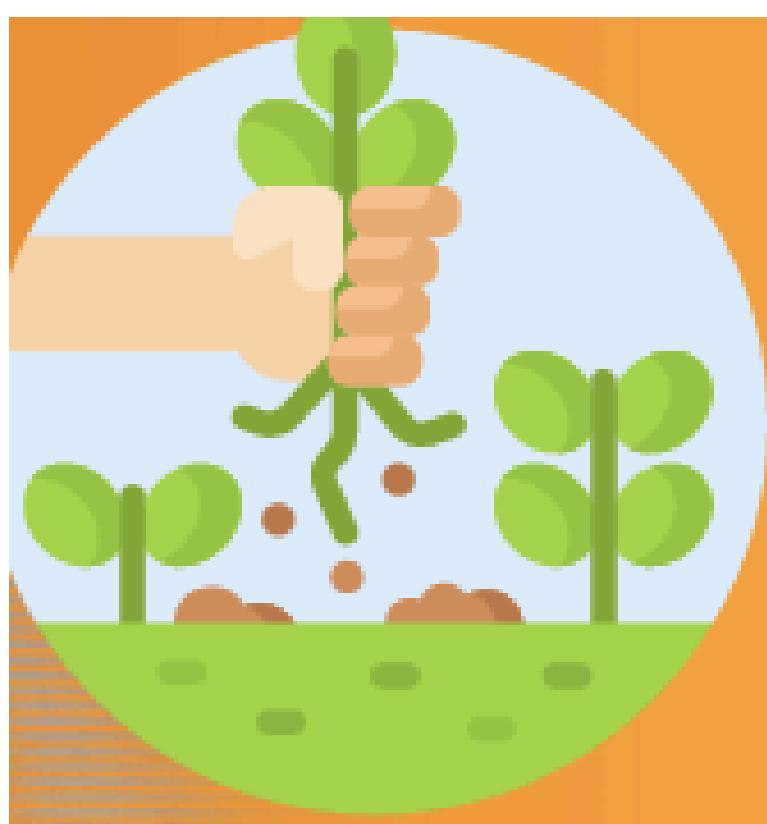
Next Steps

Once you've added your new "flowers," reread your writing.

Does it feel more complete and engaging?

If so, congratulations! You've successfully cultivated a beautiful piece of writing.

If not, don't be afraid to add more! Keep planting until your garden is in full bloom!



Station 2: R in ARMS is for Remove

Improve clarity and conciseness in writing

Let's remove the weeds.

Think of your writing like a garden. You've planted your main ideas, and they're trying to grow. But sometimes, extra words, sentences, or details act like weeds, stealing attention from your main points. Just as a gardener removes weeds to help plants thrive, you need to **remove** unnecessary elements to make your writing stronger.

Your Mission: Find repeated or off-topic words/sentences. Cross out or highlight what you can remove.

What to Weed Out

Tips for Removing Irrelevant Information

- Identify Redundancy:** Look for words or phrases that say the same thing twice. *Example:* "The car was blue **in color**."
- Cut the Fluff:** Remove words like "really," "very," "actually," and "basically" if they don't add meaning. *Example:* "It was **really** hot."
- Eliminate Tangents:** Get rid of sentences or details that don't directly relate to your topic. *Example:* A detail about your pet cat in an essay about space.
- Combine Sentences:** Join short, choppy sentences to create smoother, more concise statements. *Example:* "The dog barked. It was loud. It woke everyone up." --> "The dog's loud bark woke everyone up."

Example

Original: The big dog, who was brown and fluffy, ran really fast across the yard, and he was chasing a small squirrel that was gray.

Revised: The big, brown dog chased the gray squirrel across the yard.

Next Steps

- Review Your Writing:** Read your piece carefully, focusing on each sentence.
- Highlight Potential Cuts & Experiment:** Mark any words, phrases, or sentences that seem unnecessary or repetitive. Remove the highlighted items and see if it improves your writing.
- Ask for Feedback:** Have a classmate or teacher review your work and suggest additional cuts.



Station 3: M in ARMS is for Move

Rearrange the plants!

Sometimes, the **order** of our sentences and ideas can make a big difference in how our writing sounds and how easy it is to understand.

Think of your sentences like plants in a garden. If a plant isn't getting enough sunlight or is blocking other plants, you might need to *move* it to a better spot. Similarly, if a sentence feels out of place, rearranging it can improve the overall flow of your writing.

The Task

Read your writing carefully. Can you *move* just **one** sentence or idea to a better spot?

Remember: This isn't about adding or deleting anything, just finding a better place for what's already there!

Reflection Questions

- Does the order of my ideas make sense? Is there a more logical way to present them?
- Does moving the sentence improve the overall flow of my writing? Does it make it easier to understand?
- Would this sentence work better somewhere else? Does it feel out of place where it is now?
- After moving the sentence, does the writing sound better?

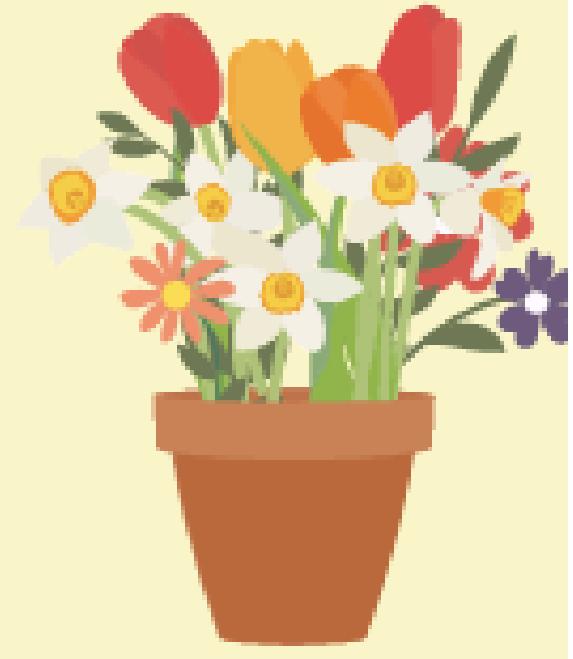
Next Steps

Once you've rearranged a sentence or idea, read your writing aloud to see how it sounds. If it flows better, great! If not, try moving it somewhere else or putting it back where it was. The goal is to make your writing as clear and engaging as possible by paying attention to the order of your ideas.



Station 4: S is for Substitute

Swap small plants for stronger ones!



Task

Replace at least **2 weak or vague words** with **stronger, more vivid ones**.

Reflection Questions

- Can I use a more **powerful or precise** word?
- Are there **boring verbs or adjectives** I could improve?

Tip

Circle or highlight words you want to improve, then write your new choices above or beside them.

Use a **thesaurus** to find stronger verbs and adjectives.

Remember that **strong words help readers picture the action or description more clearly**.

Example

Instead of 'The dog ran fast,' write 'The dog sprinted across the yard.'

Next Steps

After making your substitutions, reread your writing.

Does it sound more interesting and clear? If not, try swapping out more words.

Ask a partner if your new words make your writing stronger.

Keep refining until your writing is as vibrant as a blooming garden.