

Growing Our Writing with the ARMS Writing Strategy

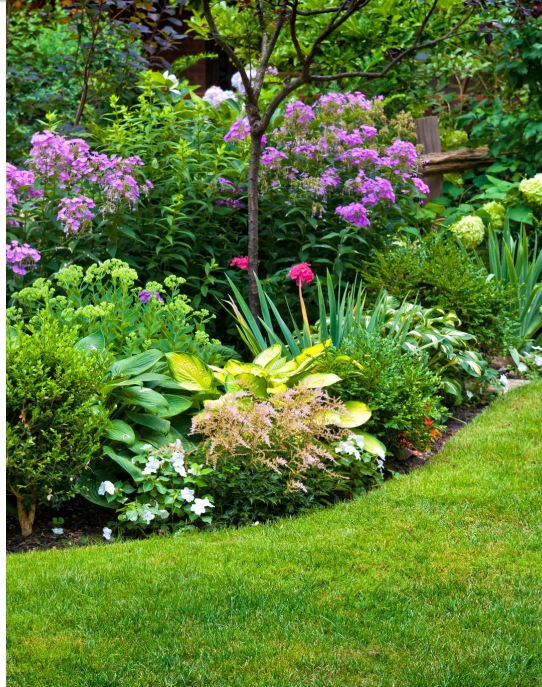
Using the Garden Analogy to Strengthen Ideas



Revision

Revision is like gardening; it nurtures your ideas and helps them flourish.

It's about more than fixing mistakes; it's about enhancing your writing's potential.



Just as plants need care, so do your words to reach their full beauty.



ARMS



A = ADD	R = REMOVE	M = MOVE	S = SUBSTITUTE
Plant new flowers to make it more colorful.	Pull out the weeds	Move the plants	Swap the weak for stronger plants.
Ideas	Extra words or parts	New ideas	Swap out words



A = ADD New Flowers

Adding details helps your writing flourish beautifully.

Details matter

What do you see, smell, feel, what time of day is it, etc...?

Write a sentence using descriptive words (adjectives) to paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind.





R = Remove the Weeds

Removing clutter helps writing flourish and shine.

Clarity Matters

Pull out weeds (unnecessary words) that take up space.
Look at this sentence. “The garden was very pretty and beautiful and nice to look at.”

The words very pretty, beautiful and nice all mean the same thing. We can remove 2 of them.

Here's our new sentence. “The garden was beautiful.”





R = Remove the Weeds

Removing clutter helps writing flourish and shine.

Clarity Matters

What weeds, words, did you remove?

The words very pretty, beautiful and nice all mean the same thing.
We can remove 2 of them.

“ The garden was very pretty and beautiful and nice to look at.”
Here's our new sentence.

“The garden was beautiful.”





M = Move the Plant

Rearrange the plants for better flow that enhances clarity and reader understanding.

Visual Arrangement

Rearrange the plants (sentences) so they look nice together.

Look at this sentence. “She was tired. The day had been long.”

Let’s switch these two sentences to see if it makes it easier for the reader to understand.

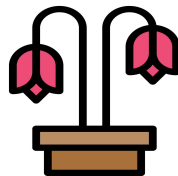
“The day had been long. She was tired.”





S = Substitute Small Plant for Bigger Ones

Replacing weak words helps strengthen your writing



Substitute Weak Language

Replace small plants (weak words) with bigger, brighter ones (strong words).

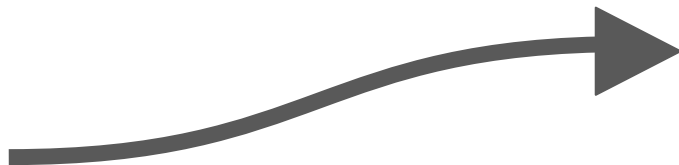
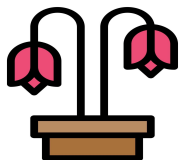
Look at this sentence.

“The girl walked into the room and looked at the book. It was good.”

What words can be substituted, changed, for a more descriptive word?



S = Substitute Small Plant for Bigger Ones



Substitute Weak Language

What words did you substitute?

The words “Walked” → could become “tiptoed,” “marched,” “strolled”

“Looked” → could become “glanced,” “examined,” “peeked”

“Good” → could be “fascinating,” “exciting,” “well-written”

“The girl walked into the room and looked at the book. It was good.” into

“The girl tiptoed into the room and peeked at the book. It was exciting!”

Practice



✨ ARMS Step	✅ What to Check For	✓ I Did This!
A — Add	Did I add more details, examples, or dialogue?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I add anything to make it clearer or more interesting?	<input type="checkbox"/>
R — Remove	Did I remove extra words or repeated ideas?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I take out anything that doesn't fit my topic?	<input type="checkbox"/>
M — Move	Did I move any words or sentences to improve flow?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I reorder ideas to make more sense?	<input type="checkbox"/>
S — Substitute	Did I replace boring words with vivid ones?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I choose stronger verbs or better transitions?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Let's focus on this paragraph and apply the ARMS revision method together.

“I went to the garden. It was fun. I saw some plants. There were flowers.”



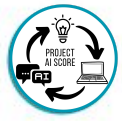
Now, let's look at what you did. Here's the paragraph again.

“I went to the garden. It was fun. I saw some plants.
There were flowers.”

Did you...

- 🌱 **Add: What kinds of flowers?**
- 🌿 **Remove: Any repeated ideas?**
- 🌾 **Move: Can we rearrange for a better beginning?**
- 🌻 **Substitute: Replace “fun” with a more specific word.**

Now, let's compare the original paragraph with a revised one.



“I went to the garden. It was fun. I saw some plants. There were flowers.”

“Yesterday, I visited a beautiful garden filled with blooming flowers and lush greenery. I wandered along winding paths, stopping to admire vibrant tulips, sweet-smelling roses, and tall sunflower stalks swaying in the breeze. The warm sunlight and buzzing bees made the experience exciting and peaceful. It was more than fun—it was magical.”



Strong ARMS Grow Writing Skills

Just like a garden, writing requires **nurturing and attention** to flourish.

Utilizing revision tools can help **enhance your ideas** and make your writing bloom.

Embrace the process of revision; it's essential for **growing your skills** as a writer.

