

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and a scale on the left side. The scale has markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Several circular diagrams with arrows are scattered across the background, some solid and some dashed.

# TO BE OR **NOT** TO BE...

ELIMINATING BE VERBS IN WRITING

Information taken in part from Mr. Durfee's Writing Lab  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwm\\_Jb6MaciGeKylz\\_9w5TA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwm_Jb6MaciGeKylz_9w5TA)

# BE VERBS

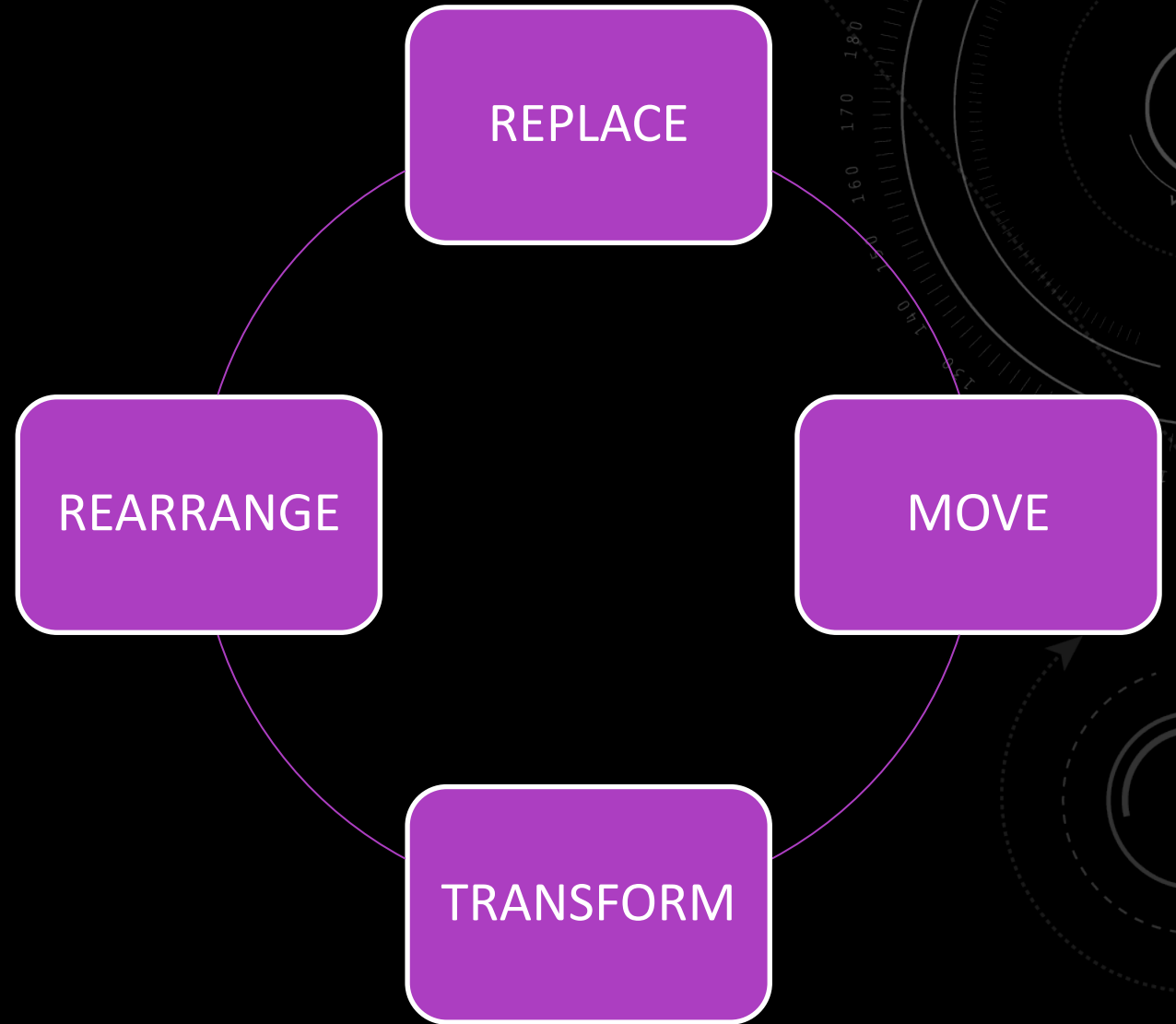
- AM
- ARE
- IS
- WAS
- WERE
- BE
- BEEN
- BEING



# WHY AVOID THEM?

- Be verbs are state-of-being verbs, NOT action verbs
- Strong verbs make your writing more engaging
- Be verbs can be vague and ambiguous
- Be verbs often make sentences unnecessarily wordy
- Too many be verbs = ugly, awkward, unsophisticated writing

# METHODS FOR ELIMINATION



# REPLACE

**REPLACE A BORING BE VERB WITH A MORE VIVID VERB.**

**Example:**

The movie was frightening.

The movie frightened me.

I was sick yesterday.

I felt sick yesterday.

# MOVE

**AVOID BE VERBS, BY MOVING THE ADJECTIVE BEFORE THE NOUN.**

## **Examples:**

My puppy is adorable.

My adorable puppy...

◀ The book is interesting.

The interesting book...

# TRANSFORM

**TRANSFORM A NOUN OR ADJECTIVE INTO AN ACTION VERB.**

Examples:

He was the writer of the book.

He wrote the book.

PEP students are hungry for good grades.

PEP students hunger for good grades.

# REARRANGE

## REARRANGE THE SENTENCE: PASSIVE to ACTIVE

### Examples:

Their car was hit by a drunk driver.

A drunk driver hit their car.

We have been invited by our friends to the party.

Our friends have invited us to the party.



# GIVE IT A TRY!

PEP students are often concerned with being overwhelmed by homework. No doubt, PEP is difficult. PEP students who are in need of reducing their stress should always be looking for ways to be one step ahead of their assignments. PEP students who are successful at managing their workload are more likely to be consistent with submitting assignments on time and will be much less stressed during their PEP experience.