Expressive Verbs

A very simple but effective way to improve your writing is to replace weak verbs with strong verbs.

Watch the video on today’s handouts for a tutorial. (DEFINITION OF A STRONG VERB.)

**PRACTICE #1:** On the N2K side of your Writer’s Notebook, use the Active / Expressive Verbs list to replace the weak verbs in the following paragraph. Re-write the entire paragraph with your new words.

Over the weekend, Mrs. Greenlaw watched the movie *Only the Brave*, based on the real life help that the Granite Mountain Hotshots give their community during a fire. The men move quickly into action. They dig on the outskirts of the fire to prevent the fire from going any further, and they start fires to prevent the fire from going any further. In the end, however, they cannot hold the fire, and they must cover themselves and prepare for the worst. The town cries over the loss of these nineteen men.

**PRACTICE #2:** When you receive your paired passage writing back, **REVISE THREE** of your verbs by making them more expressive. Draw a line through your original verb, and write the new verb above it. Highlight your new verb. You may use either of the two lists that are posted to help you with better verb choices, or you can utilize a thesaurus.