



SWID  
STYLES

A stylized graffiti logo for 'SWID STYLES'. The letters are rendered in a bold, blocky font with a green-to-yellow gradient and a thick purple outline. The text is set against a white circular background. A yellow marker with a green band is positioned horizontally across the logo, appearing to have just finished drawing it.



GRAFFITI

A black rectangular banner with the word 'GRAFFITI' written in a white, distressed, hand-painted font.

**Wild Style Graffiti is the most creative style of graffiti and involves letters that are all tangled up and hard to read.**



**The point of Wild Style graffiti is *not* to be readable, but to be artistic and *interesting*.**



**In fact, many graffiti artists strive to hide their words, making their message a secret.**



**While Wild Style letters are very unusual, each artwork is consistent. The artist will use either all straight edges, or all curved edges.**



**Even though Wild Style looks very complicated,  
it is actually very simple once you get the  
hang of it.**



# LESSON OBJECTIVE:

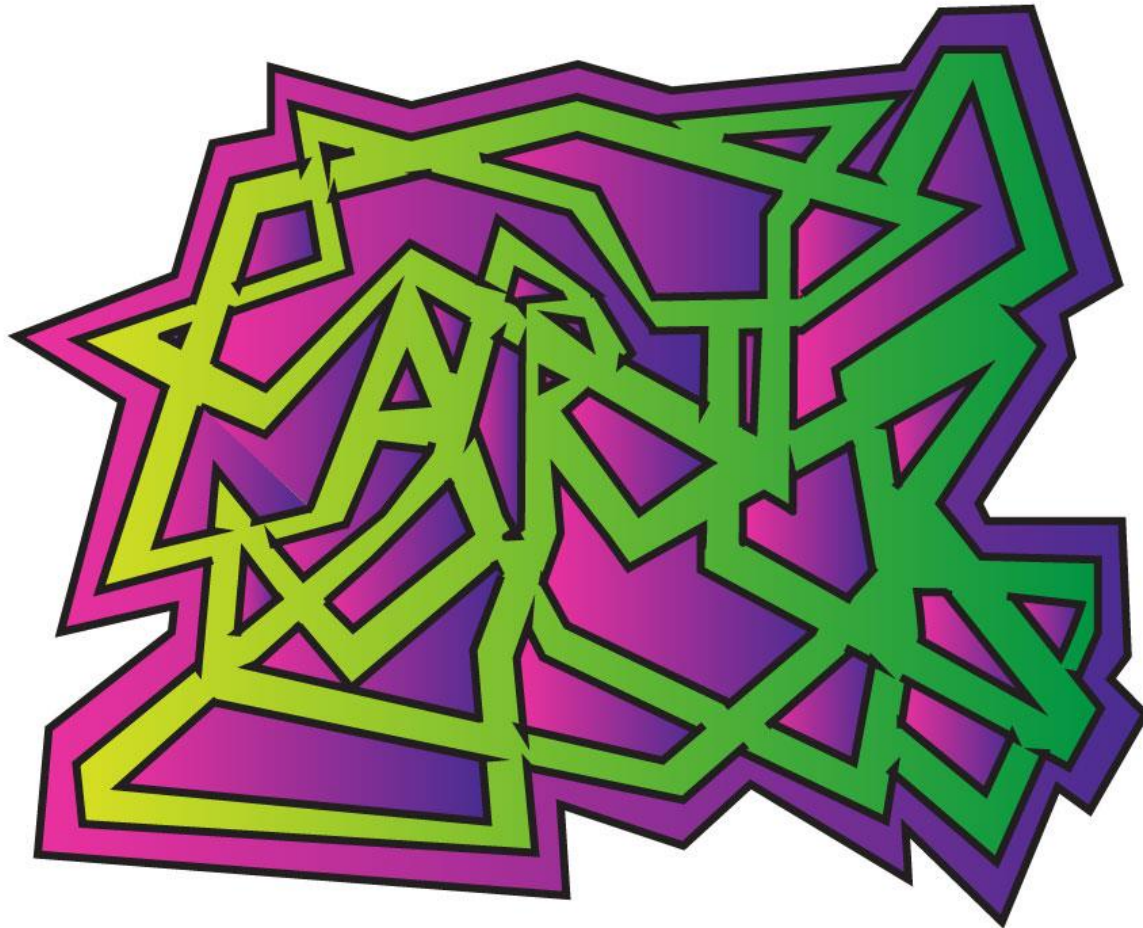
## **Students will learn:**

- The elements of Wild-Style Graffiti
- How to draw block letters
- How to use Wild-Style to make letters scramble up
- How to create bold outlines
- How to shade using a gradient

## **Students will be able to:**

Follow along to create the word  
“ART” in Wild-Style Graffiti

THIS WILL BE OUR  
**FINISHED PRODUCT.**

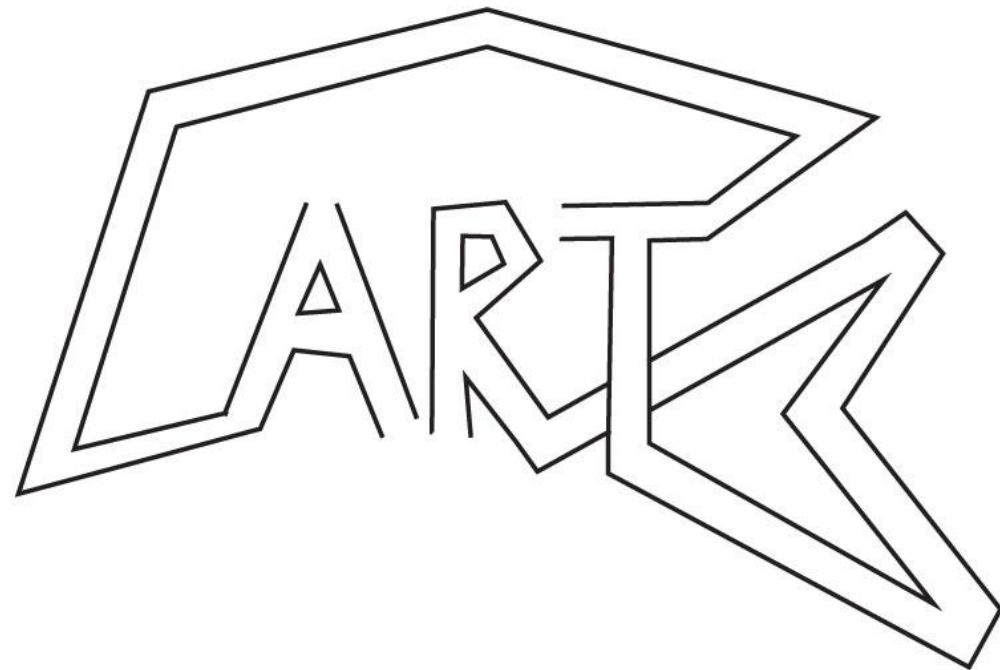




**BEFORE YOU START**

Decide if you want to use **STRAIGHT** or **CURVY** lines.

**You can only choose one!**



# STEP 1

## Create letters!

To begin, write the word ART using regular letters.



Turn those letters into block letters. Your lines should either be *all* curved, or *all* straight.

Curvy



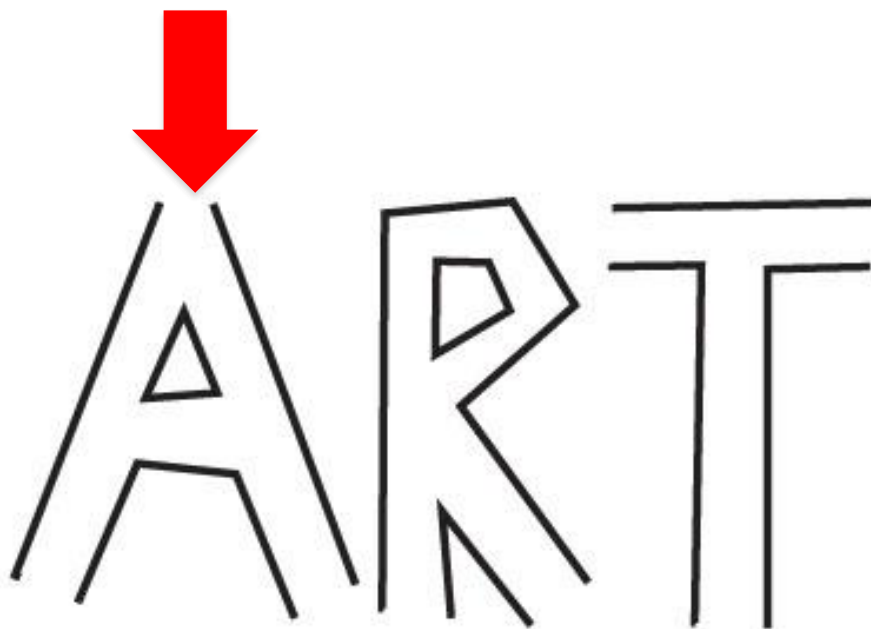
Straight



**STEP 2**

**Open the “ends”**

**Erase the ends of each letter**



# STEP 3

## Tangle your letters

Make the end of your A extend outwards, going in any direction.

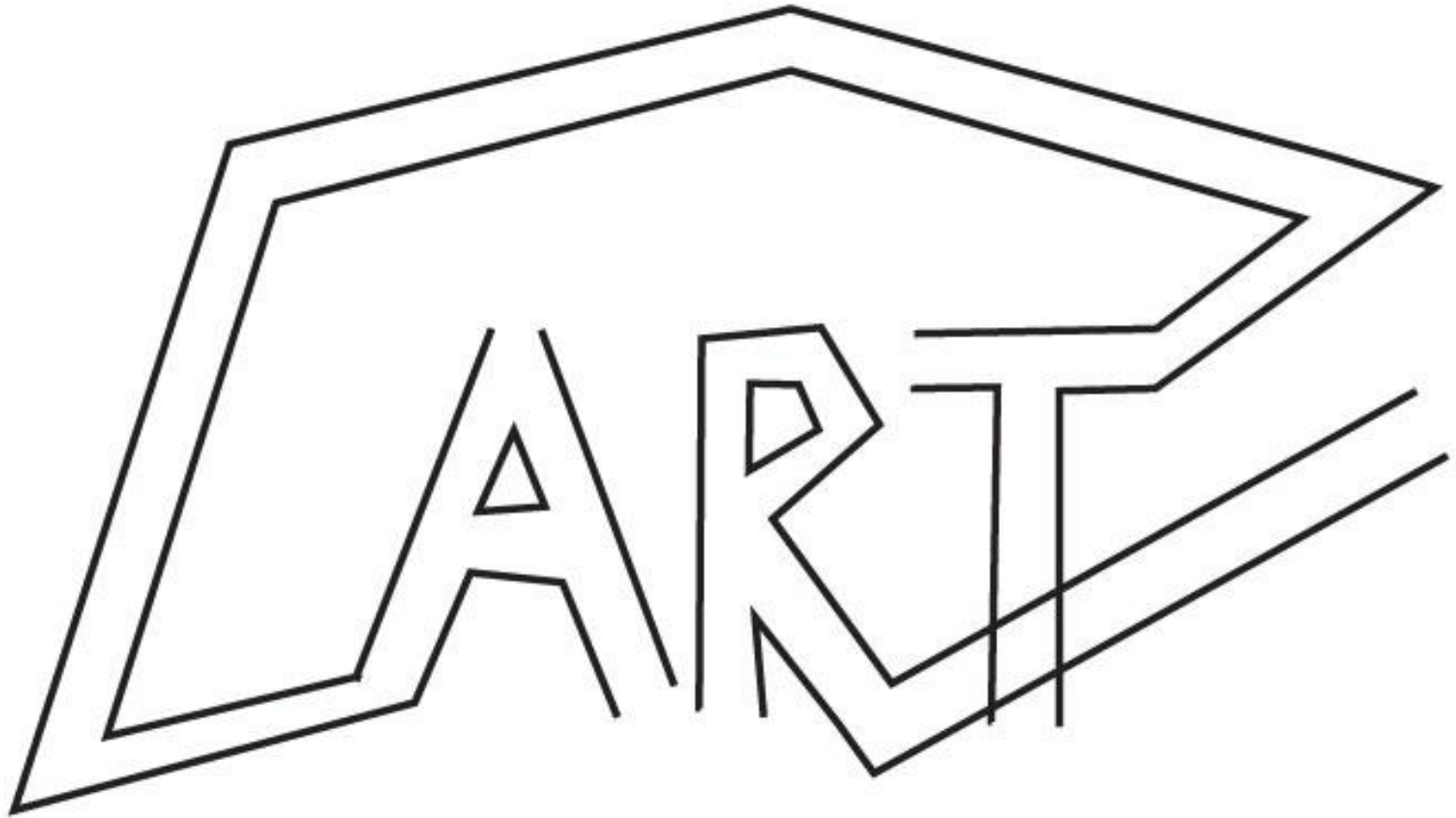


**Next, make those lines connect to the opening of another letter.**



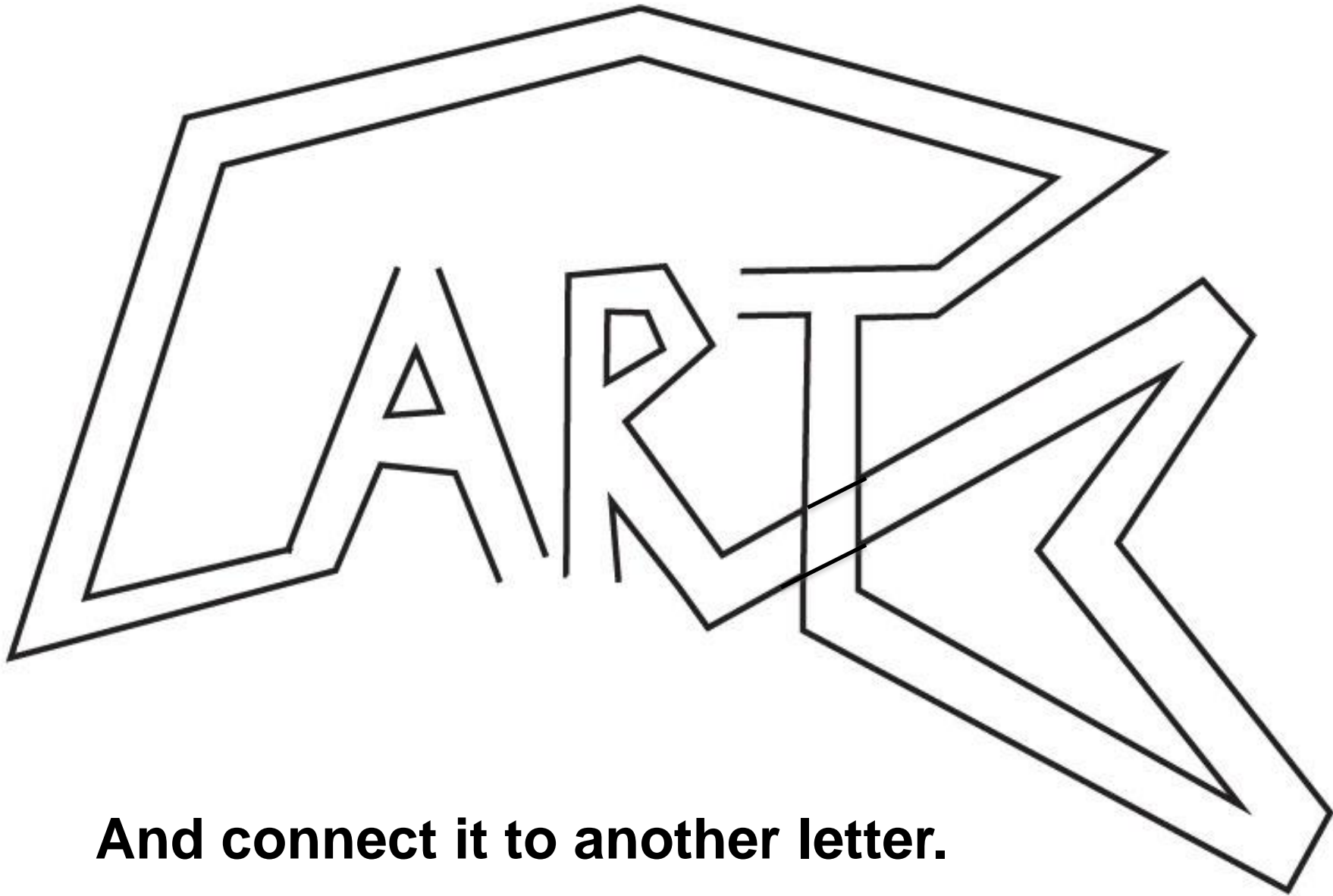
**If you are using curved lines, it's the same concept. Except instead of using straight lines to connect your letters, you use curved ones.**





**Do the same thing to another letter.  
Extend the opening....**

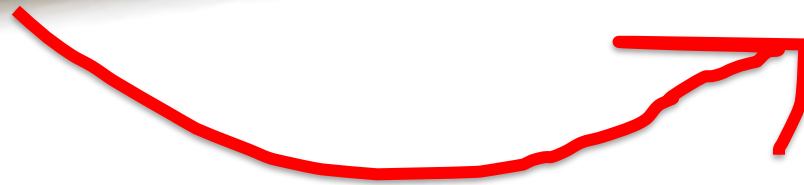


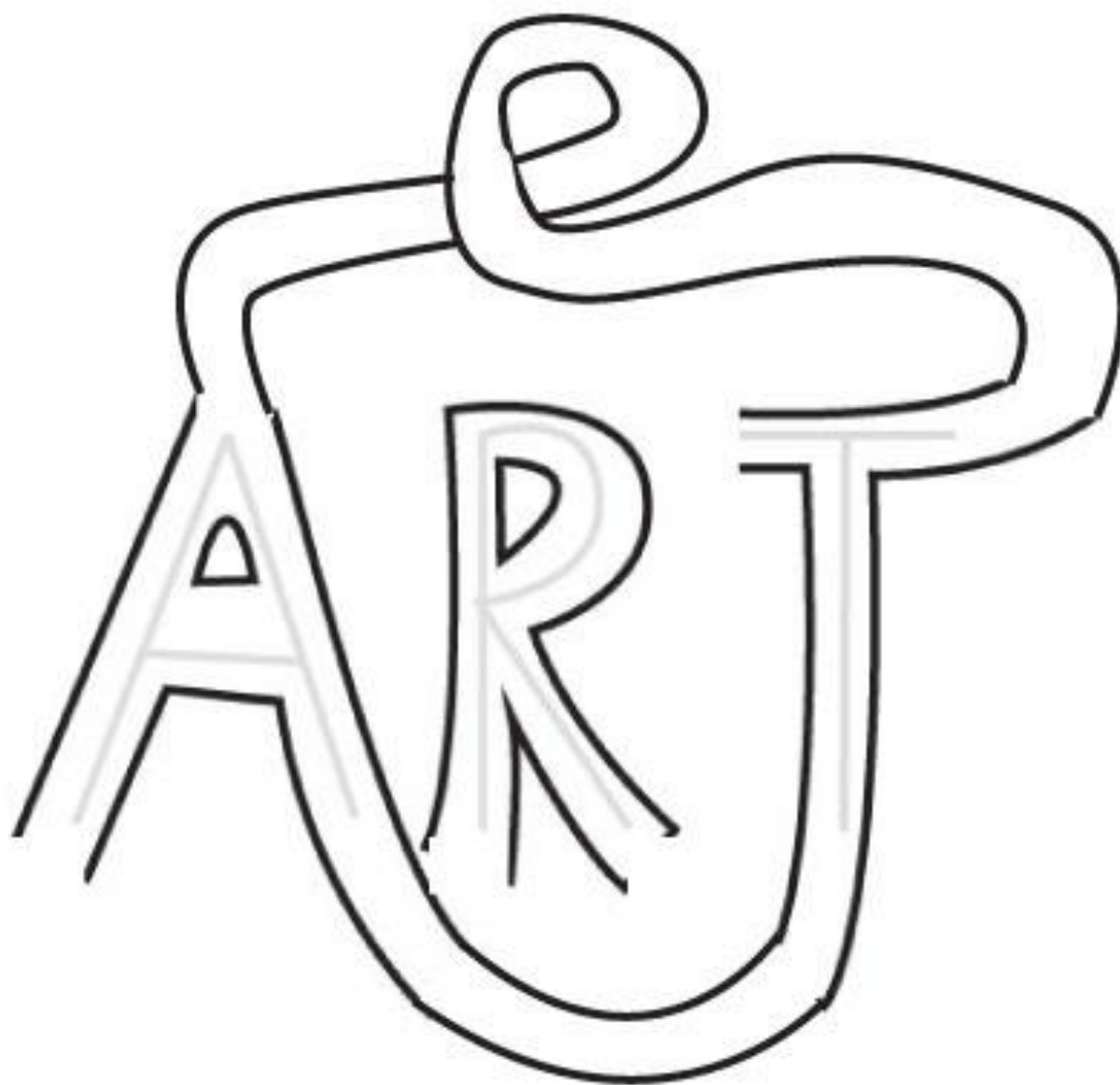


**And connect it to another letter.**

**NOTE:**  
Overlapping is good!

Give your lines some  
extra curves and  
angles.





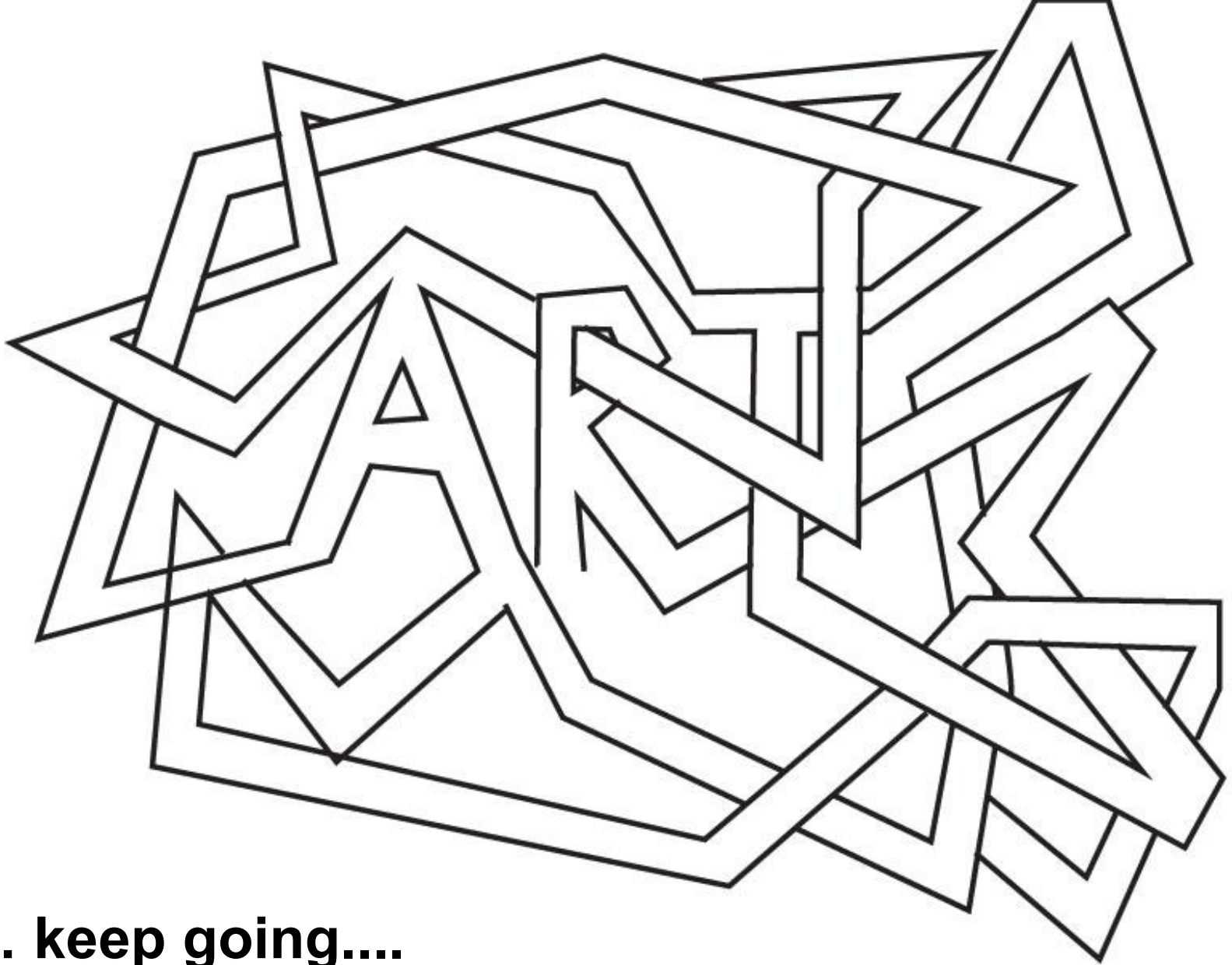
*example of curved lines*



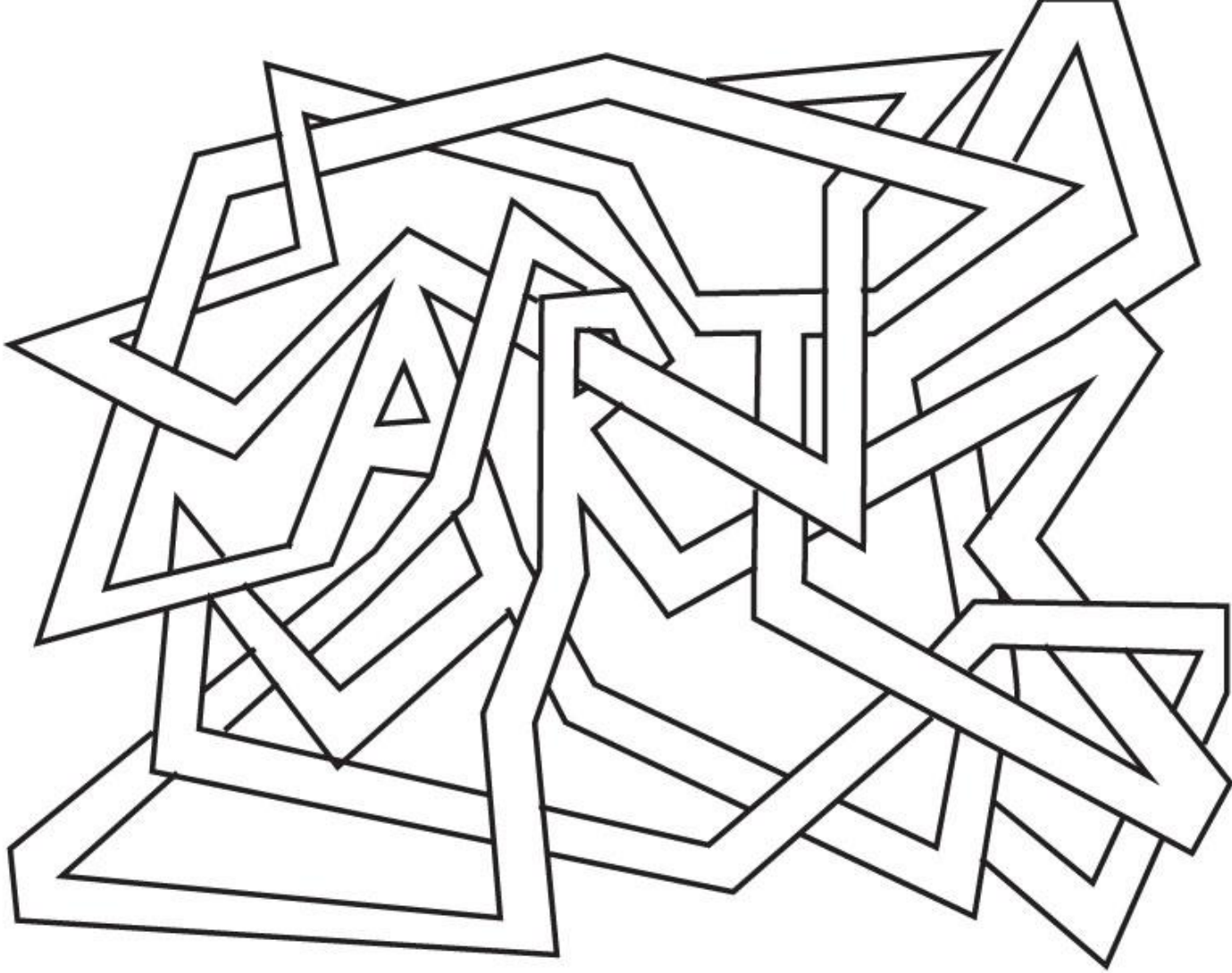
**STEP 4**

**Continue  
the Tangle**

**Keep extending lines and connecting them to others. Use consistent widths.**



**... keep going....**



**... and continue making lines until you fill up your space. Try to connect every line to something else**

**TIP:**

**Wild Style is most successful when the word is completely hidden. Try to hide your letters within the tangles!**



**STEP**

**5**

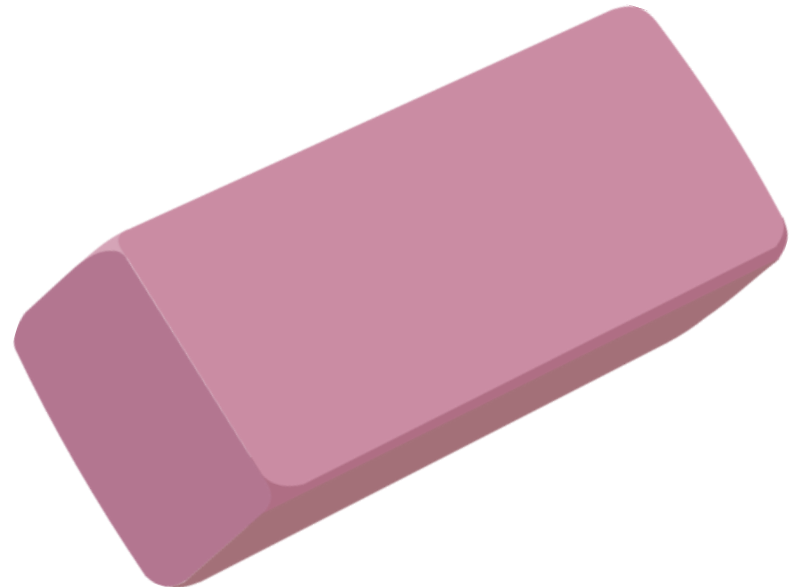
## Erasing

As you draw, you will create a lot of overlapping lines.

You have two choices how you can erase those lines.

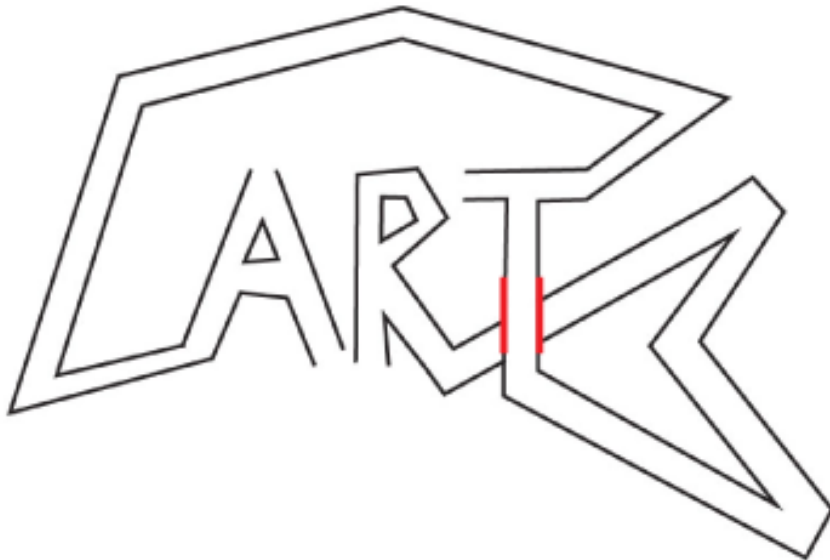
1. You can erase **ALL** overlapping lines, or
2. You can erase just **SELECTIVE** overlapping lines.

*examples on next slide...*

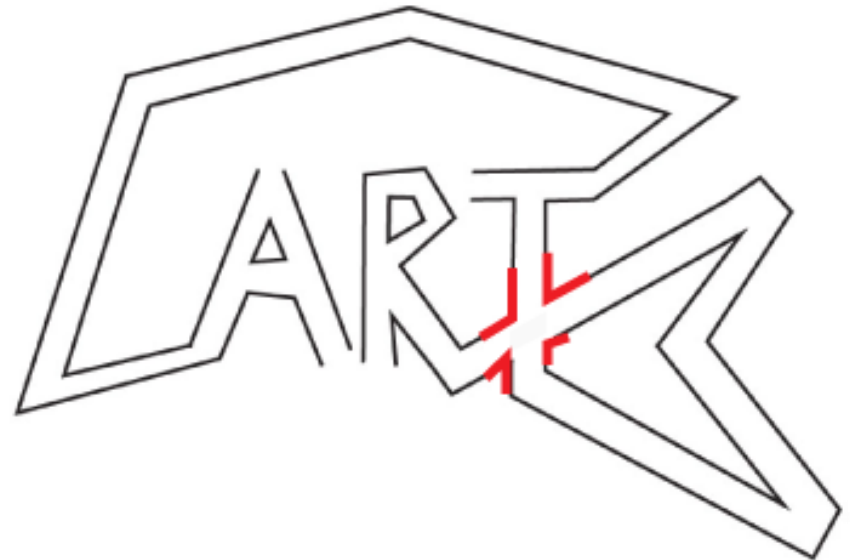




Erase only **selective lines**,  
making it look like  
pieces are overlapping  
other pieces.



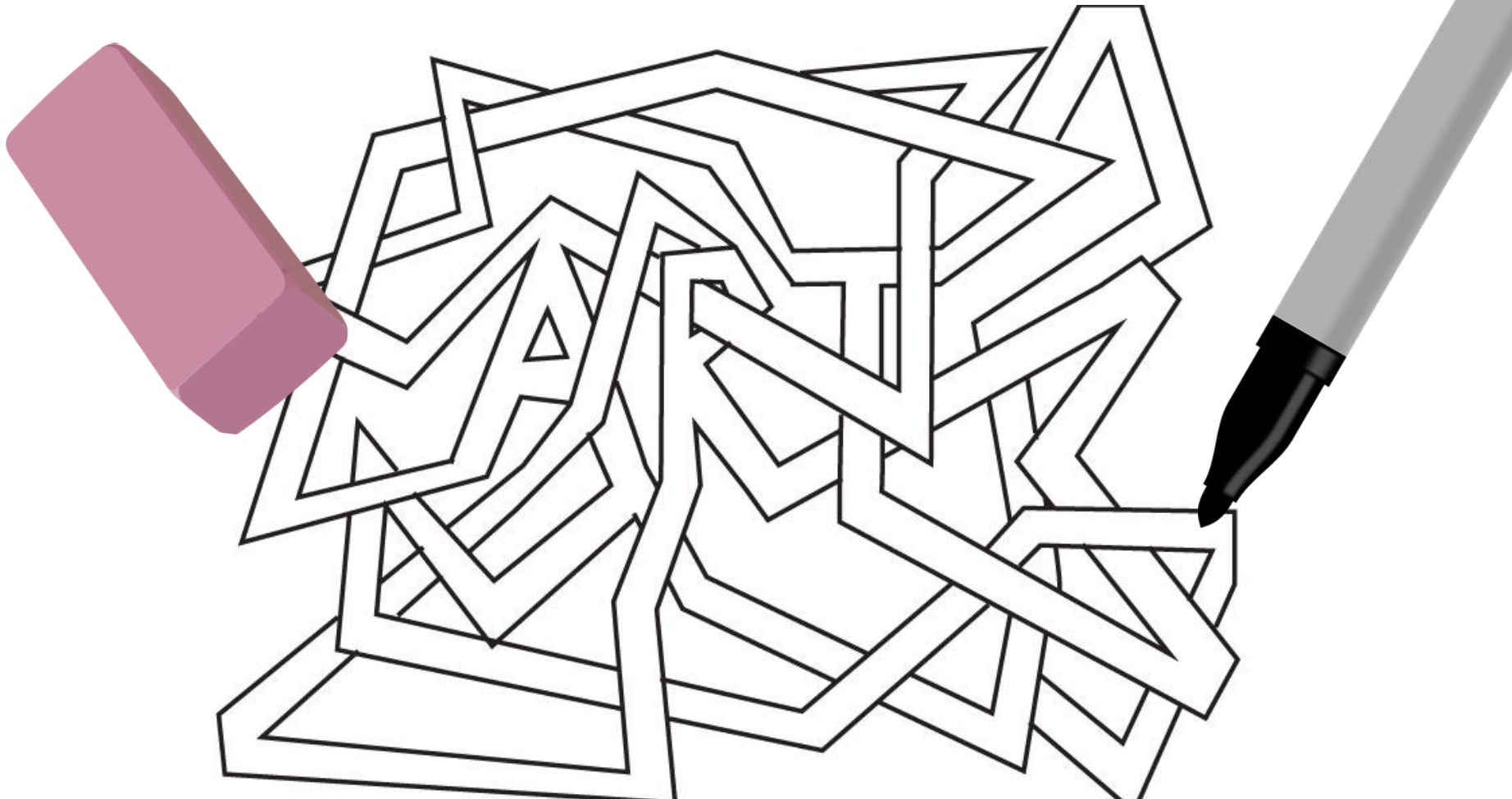
Erase **ALL**  
overlapping lines,  
making your word  
look like it is all one  
piece.



# STEP 6

## Black Lines

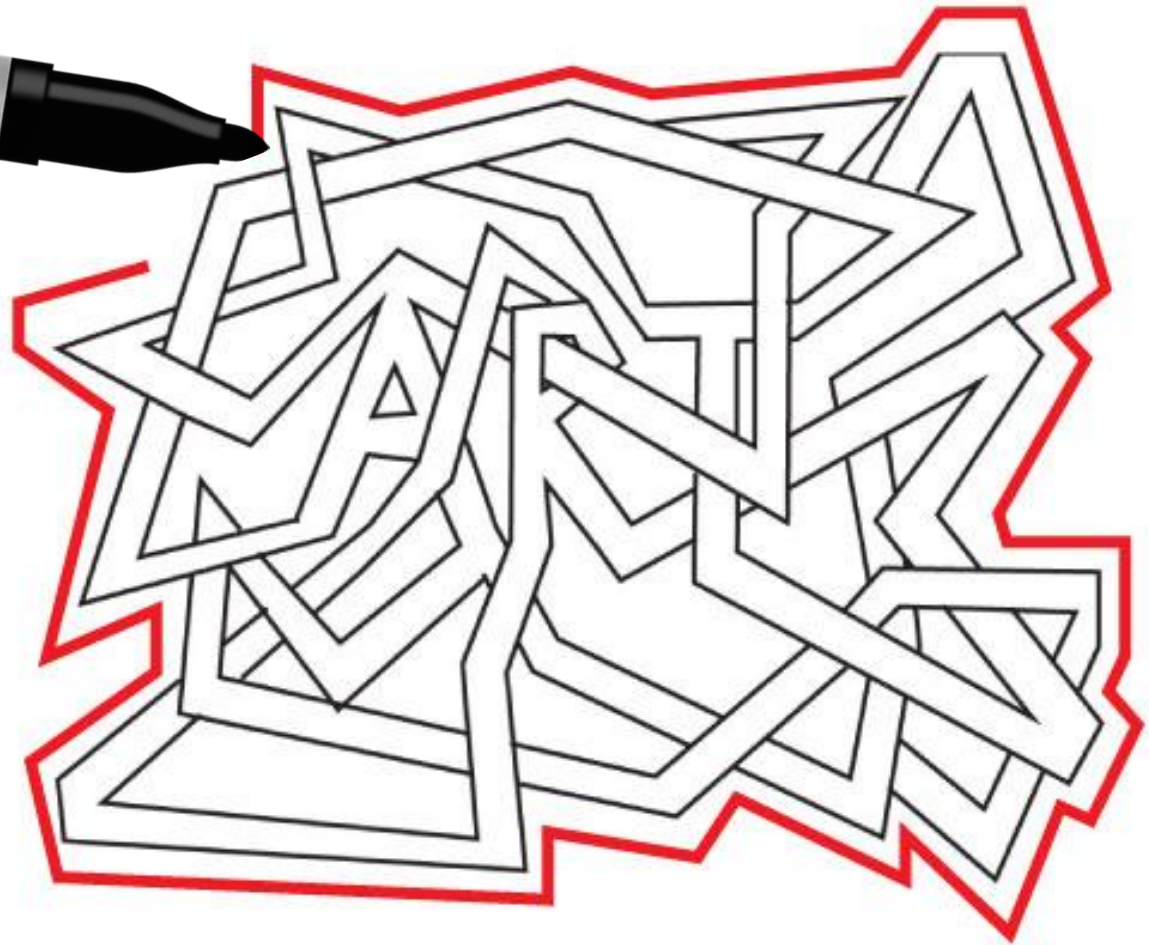
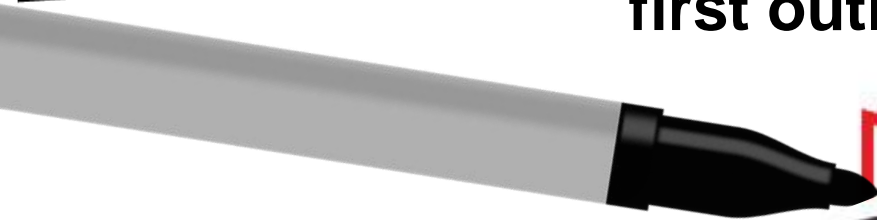
Go over all your lines with black marker or sharpie, then erase any extra pencil lines.



# STEP 7

## Outlines

With your black marker, draw a line around all of your letters. This is your first outline.



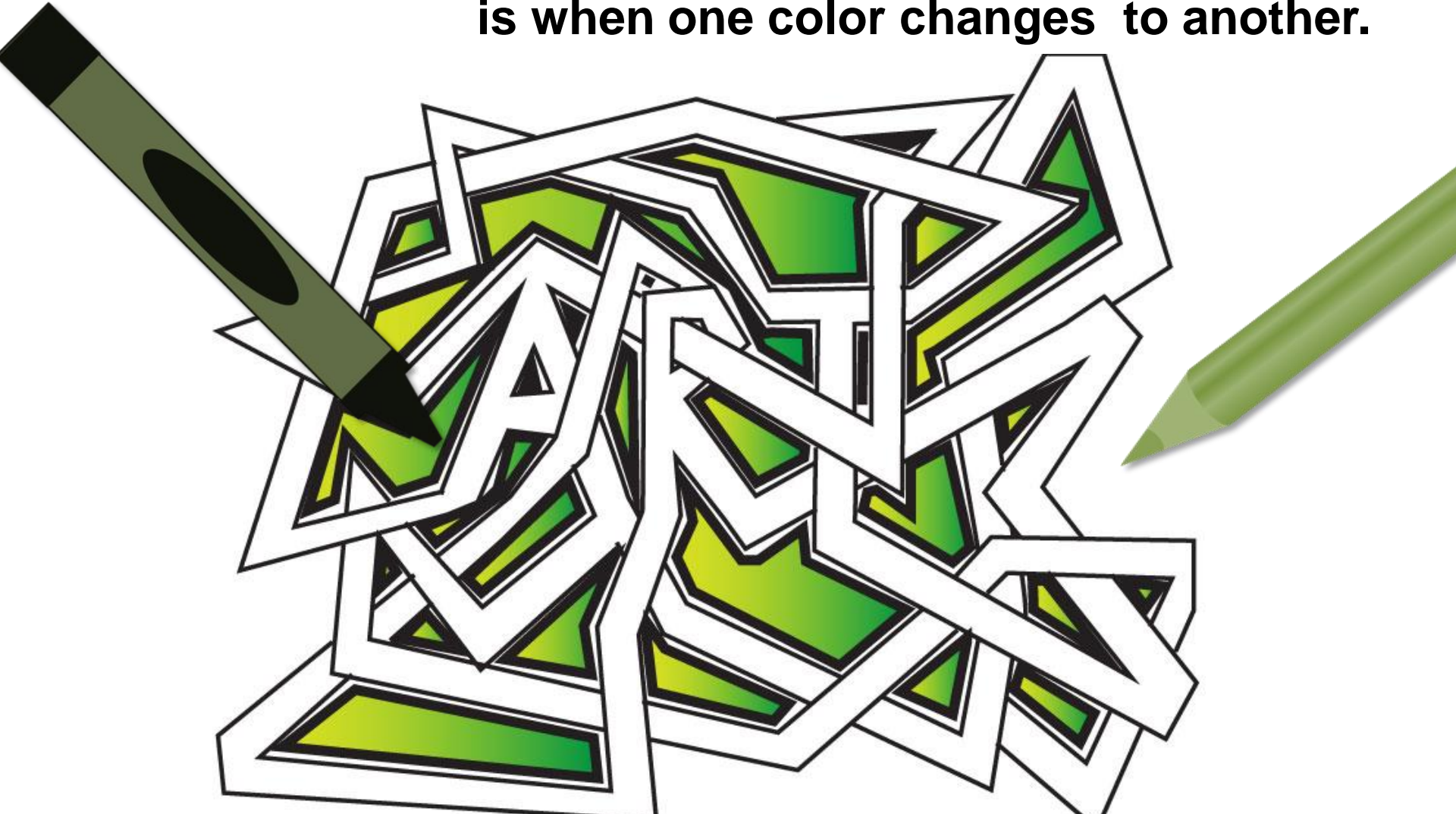
**Next, begin drawing an outline inside each empty shape. This will help your word look “tangled up”.**



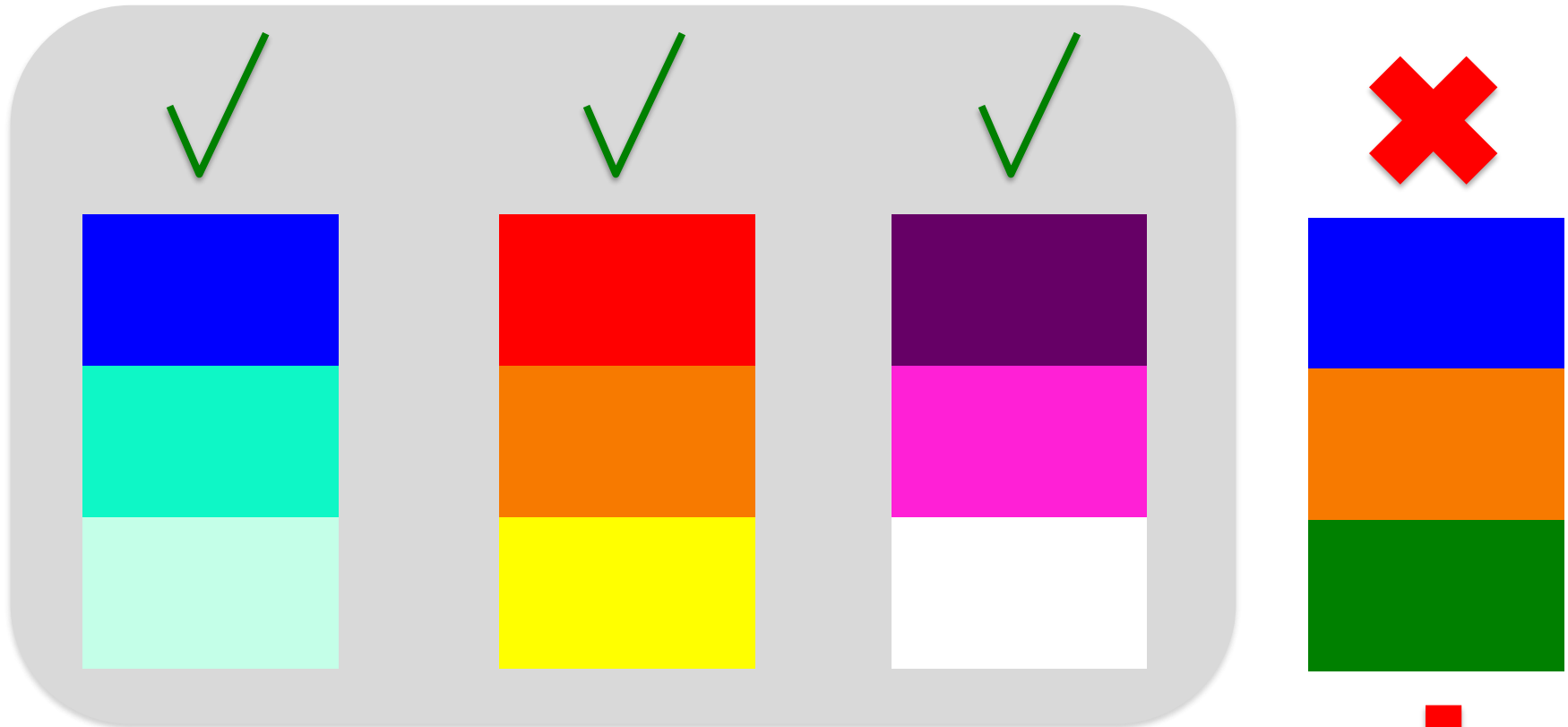
# STEP 8

## Adding Color

On the next slides, you will learn how to color using a **GRADIENT**. A gradient is when one color changes to another.

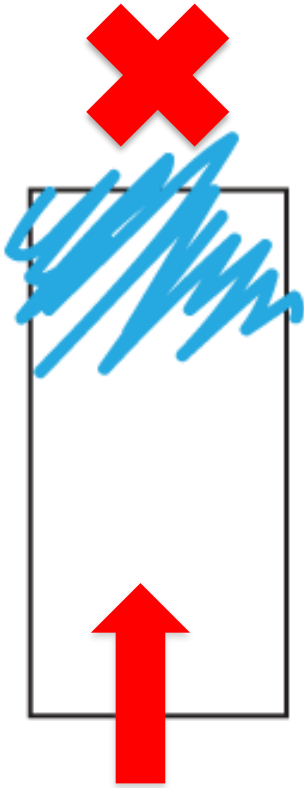


To create a gradient, first choose two or three colors that are similar. Use crayon or colored pencil because they blend well. Markers don't blend, unfortunately.



**Be careful not to choose colors that are too different**

# Next, practice using your colors to create a gradient.



**Color hard, so hard that your color appears shiny. We should not see your lines.**

First, color the top 1/3 with ColorA. Press down *hard*.



Next, use ColorA to color down to the halfway point. Press down lighter and make the color gradually fade.



Then, color the bottom 1/3 with ColorB. Press down *hard*.



Last, use ColorB to blend into ColorA. Use less pressure and overlap each color. You should see a gradual change from top to bottom.



**There are lots of different ways to use a gradient within Wild Style Graffiti.**

**Words colored with a gradient**

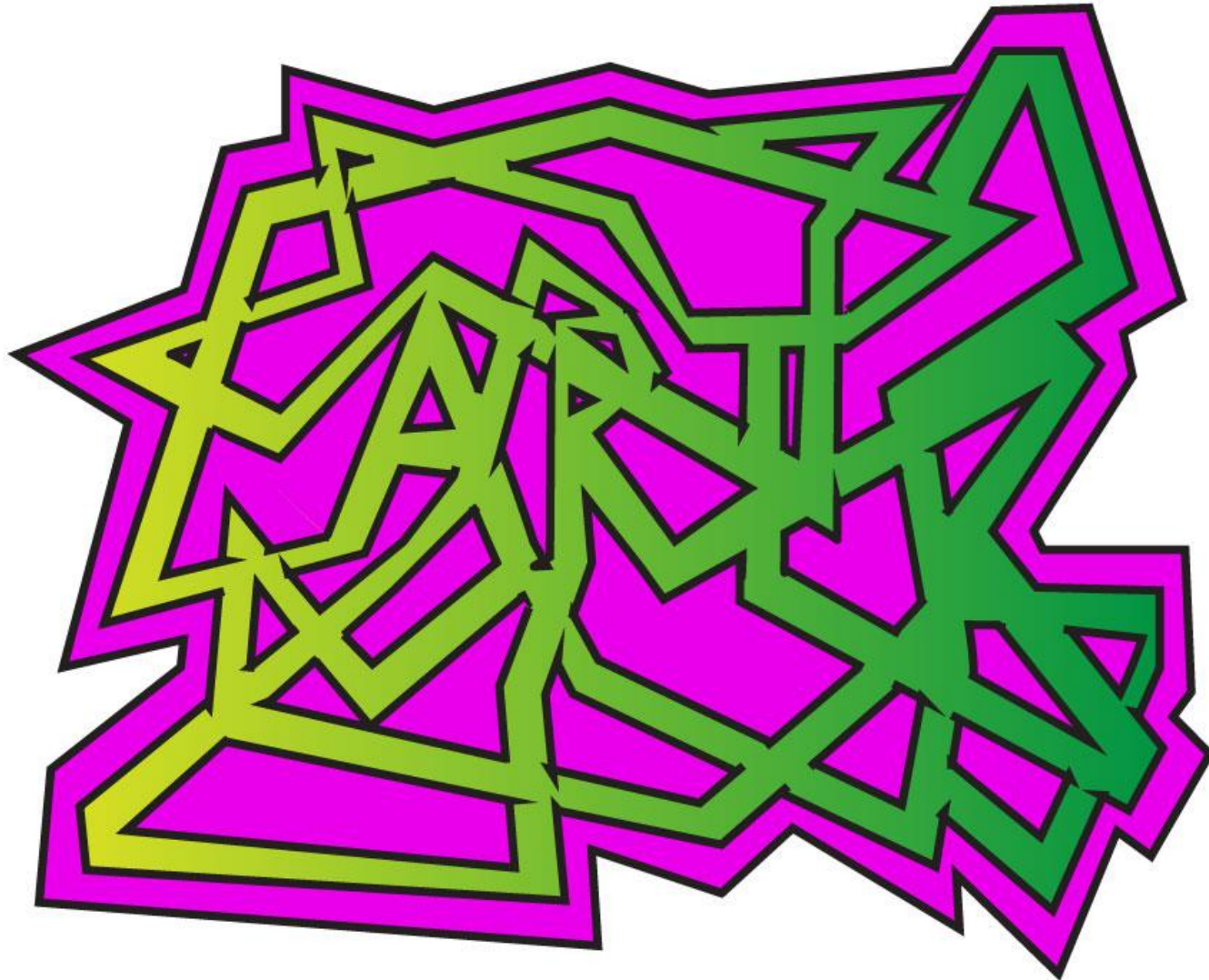


**Empty spaces colored with a gradient**





**Because our words are so interesting, it's okay to keep the colors simple. However, if you want to add more color, use a color that POPS.**



**You can also consider using a contrasting gradient in other areas as well.**

