



Practicing Recommendation #4

Use the *Tightrope* metaphor to spark thinking about the balancing act that farming requires

Part 1: Brainstorm

What words/phrases come to mind when you think about walking a tightrope?

Nouns	Verbs
Adjectives	Expressions/Symbols

Part 2: Expand and explore

Select one row to work on at a time. First, answer the question on the left (this is important!), then answer the analogous question on the right.

How do tightrope walkers improve their practice and skillset?	How do farmers improve their practice and skillset?
What factors <i>increase</i> the level of difficulty, or even the risk of falling?	What factors increase the difficulty of maintaining a farm, or even make it impossible for some farms to stay in operation?
What factors <i>decrease</i> the likelihood of a fall?	What factors help farms remain viable and successful?
What are the different variables that a tightrope walker must be mindful of and account for?	What are the different variables that farmers must be mindful of and account for?
What external supports help tightrope walkers maintain their balance, and/or recover after teetering?	What external supports help farmers maintain a thriving operation, and/or recover from setbacks as needed?

Part 3: Your Turn!

Write a sentence or two of your own using the *Tightrope* metaphor.
