How to Simplify Variable Expressions:

1. Complete all distributive property. Example: 2(x - 4)

2∙x - 2∙4

2x - 8

1. Check for subtraction. Change to adding a negative, only if you want to, because it is sometimes easier. Remember that adding a negative is the same at subtraction. We don’t always add like terms together. Sometimes we will have to subtract them. So pay close attention to the signs!
2. Box in all like terms and include the operation symbol that comes before the 2nd term. This is very important, so that you know what operation to follow with your like terms.
3. Copy down anything that was not used. We can’t forget about it!

Directions: Simplify these expressions using the box method

1. 2m + 3 + 6m 5. 12(d – 6)
2. 4b + x + 2x – b 6. (k + 1)5
3. 4a + 7 – 2a + 3 7. c + 2(c – r)
4. 6n + y + 3n – 5y 8. -6 + 5(1 + g)