Adding White Space

Adding more "white space" (or empty space with no writing) to assignments can alleviate working memory demands by breaking up what needs to be processed. In the two examples below, notice the difference that adding white space makes for the same math assignment.

BEFORE

Subtraction Worksheet

25765 - 445	1323 - 58	802 - 78	321 - 80	7005 - 181
18959 - 5883	8246 - 111	623 - 44	581 - 33	6932 - 161

AFTER

Subtraction Worksheet

25765 - 445	1323 - 58	902 - 79	321 - 80	7005 - 191
18959 - 5893	9246 - 111	623 - 44	591 - 33	6932 - 161

What changed? A lighter font was used, greater space was given around problems, and the vertical lines were removed. Although it takes more space, the processing benefits may be worth a little extra time adjusting the visual design.