

How to Cut (or Surviving Surgery)

Reasons for Cutting

- Too much material for time allowed
- Certain parts of the selection are inappropriate
- Need to create a program with a coherent theme

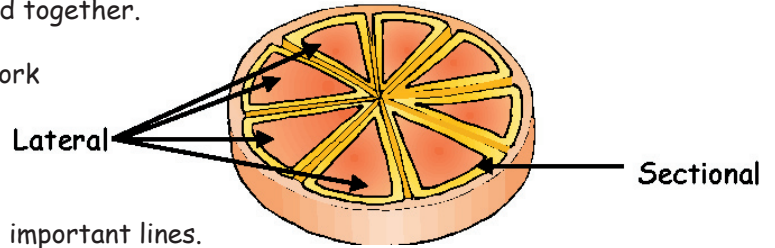


Ways to Cut

- Lateral Cuts- taking pieces of each scene throughout the work
Consider whether 2 or more scenes can be joined together.
- Sectional Cuts- using one major scene for the work

Guidelines

- First read the entire piece.
- Always cut in, not out- build your cutting around important lines.
- Find the moment of climax- then cut around that
- Eliminate dialogue tags- cut "he/she said"
- Cut minor characters- you may cut minor characters who are not necessary for the story
- Cut inappropriate material and vulgarity
- Cut really elaborative description
- Cut references to events you cannot fully explain.
- In Poetry, cut full stanzas
- The cutting must reflect the author's original intent
 - You have an ethical responsibility to the author, text and audience.
- The cutting must still contain all the plot elements:
 - exposition, climax, and conclusion
- The cutting must have a moment of impact.



Technical Stuff

- Always cut in pencil
- Always copy the literature and cut on this copy (never cut in the original script)
- Read cutting **aloud** and time to see if your cutting is too long/short
- Make an extra copy for Ms. Zinn (pre-cut)
- Write authors, book titles, piece titles, where found, etc. on the copies.

Do it Again

- After you read aloud and selection is still too long.....cut again....cut some more.
- Remember to allow time for intro.
- Read aloud & time again. After this, if it is still too long, cut more.
- After 3 times of honestly trying to cut...take it to your coach for help.