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 to long, cut more.
• After 3 times of honestly trying to cut...take it to your coach for help.