

## **Exercise in Heavy Editing**

Trade 2-3 pages of your manuscript with another student and practice making heavy editorial comments on one another's drafts. You should cut words, lines, sentences, or paragraphs that are vague, wordy, trite, non-descriptive, or simply boring. Try to identify at least five cliché's and note them in the margins of the draft. Try to find at least three places that could be more descriptive and note them in the margins of the draft.

Use simple marginal comments such as the following: static, cliché, trite, jargon, be specific, delete, don't tell us, invent, make new, and show.

Be confident.

Cross out rapidly and aggressively.

Do not be tentative.

Do not begin comments with "I think" or "I wonder"

Do not make apologies

Never wonder *am I making the right suggestion?* You will at some point make an awful suggestion, but if the writer can't tell the difference, then your comments, good or bad, don't matter anyway.