

Public Speaking Activity

Chapter 11-Using Language

Eliminating Clutter

The purpose of this activity is to refine your skills at eliminating clutter from your speeches. The following paragraph is filled with verbal clutter. Following the model on pages 281-282 of the textbook, edit the paragraph so as to eliminate the unnecessary words. You should be able to find 25 to 30 such words. If you don't find that many, go back to the paragraph and edit it again.

Imagine the thought of burning up a priceless painting by Rembrandt just in order to stay warm for ten minutes. Sounds really crazy, doesn't it? But that is comparable to just what is happening right now in the Amazon rain forest of Brazil. The president of Brazil authorized a 14,000-mile network of highways to open up the vast area of the rain forest to settlement. Unfortunately, the project has been nothing but a disaster from the very beginning. Working in the hot, torrid, steamy jungle caused many fatal deaths among the workers. Soon a whole lot of foreign businesses began to get themselves involved in the project. Today there is a very real danger that the rain forest will be irrevocably destroyed completely and altogether.