Script *editing objectives*

- *Objectivity: objective–led*
- *Organise: logical flow*
- *Error free: grammar and words*
- *Expressive language*
- *Energy of dialogue*
- *Tighten: cut the flab*

Background (A story submitted by one of my mentees)
A young man and his mom meet a spunky girl under unusual circumstances. He falls in love with her. His parents moot an alliance, which is turned down, saying she is too young to marry.

Passage for editing in red.
Improvement ideas in blue
Edited version in black

Nearly after 6 months, a heavy rain sank Chennai city that lead to traffic jam in the arterial roads. People travelling in govt. and company buses alighted from the bus, and started to walk their way home as the rain continued to slash with no sign to cease. As almost every place was flooded, a lot of people commuting from OMR stagnated near Thiruvanmayiur signal for hours.

Transparent Transition

Collect the Connected

Junk the unimportant

Protagonist P o V

Fast forward 6 months. Torrential rains sink Chennai city.

Without warning, arterial roads were flooded and traffic ground to a gridlock. Jagan abandoned the bus he boarded on OMR and started to walk towards his home at Indira Nagar. He saw a huge crowd stranded near Thiruvanmiyur signal.

The same girl stranded along with her colleagues talking to her hostel warden over the phone who advised the girl NOT to come to hostel as the entire road was completely flooded.

With no hope of where to go, the girl stood up on the platform having discussions with her hostel-mates, and soon they found themselves being interrupted by our guy who pass-by them. Recognizing him, the girl spoke openly about the terrible ordeal they had been through.

At the bus stop, he saw … yes, that was Mallika. His heart leapt. Meanwhile, turned away from him, she was on the phone: "True madam. No way can we reach the hostel. We are trying to find some friends living somewhere here. Don't worry, we will keep you informed".

When she turned around, she saw him. Quickly overcoming her diffidence, she introduced her friends and openly shared with him their predicament.

Understanding the critical situation, the guy offered to help, by taking them all straight to his house nearby where they could have food and spend the night, eventually, decide on next course of action. With little hesitation, the girl and 4 of her hostel-mates accepted to go with him. They were given a warm greeting by his parents who had made all the arrangement for their dinner, change of clothes, and stay for that night.
In the morning, he told her what he felt about her. She also told him what she felt about him

"You can stay the night in my house, its just 5 minutes' walk. My mother will welcome you all, I know", he said. Left with no option, they agreed.

They got a warm welcome, a hot meal and a night's blissful sleep.

In the morning, before Mallika left, they both opened up their hearts to each other.

240 words reduced to 176 words. 27% efficiency!

Moot point: what if the story is told in first person?