Edit and Revise Your Screenplay

1. Make certain your story is complete.

Answer the following:

* Where is this set?
* Who are the characters? Protagonist?
* Who/what is the antagonist?
* What is the exposition?
* What is the conflict?
* How is it resolved?

2. Develop your characters.

Determine the following for each character:

* What is his/her need or void?
* What is he/she willing to do to get the need/void fulfilled?
* What obstacles does he/she face?
* What are the stakes? What could be lost or gained?
* What does this character do for the story?

3. Cut the fat.

Remove anything that is not completely necessary to the story:

* Are there any characters or lines that do not improve the play? Cut them.
* Are there any scenes that are not required for the story to make sense? Cut them.
* Are there any scenes or moments that do not advance the plot or make the story better? Cut them or improve them.

4. Tighten up your language.

Make your characters sound like actual people by doing the following:

* Read your lines aloud. If they are difficult to say or sound awkward, change them.
* Would a real person, and the character specifically, say those words? If not, change them.
* Fix grammatical errors.
* Make sure that all words are used in the correct context.
* Research to make sure that all information is accurate.

*Simplify your ideas! Create more impact with less.*