SAMPLE TALKS

Donna Galanti is the author of *A Human Element* and *A Hidden Element* (Imajin Books), the first two books in the paranormal suspense Element Trilogy, and the middle grade fantasy series *Joshua and the Lightning Road* (Month9Books). She is represented by Bill Contardi of Brandt & Hochman Literary Agents, Inc. Donna is a contributing editor to the International Thriller Writers *Big Thrill* magazine and blogs at Project Mayhem, a cooperative of published middle grade authors. She's lived from England as a child, was a U.S. Navy Photographer stationed in Hawaii, has had a career in marketing communications, and operated her own resume writing service. She lives in Pennsylvania with her family in an old farmhouse that has lots of nooks and crannies for writing. You can find her books, resources for writers, and upcoming events at www.ElementTrilogy.com. For more information on her writing for teens and tweens visit www.DonnaGalanti.com.

(shorter)
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Sample one-hour craft lectures:

FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD BUILDING

All stories happen somewhere. Whether you write fantasy, dystopian, science fiction, or even about the "real world," world building is key to creating a meaningful story. With two science fiction and two fantasy books under her belt, Donna shares methods of world building that any writer can apply. From the smallest details to the rules of its universe, discover the way a considered approach to world building can govern the hearts of your characters and help drive your story. Topics include: elements of world building, using world building to support conflict and tension, world building questions and resources, and what to avoid in building your world.

USE REVISION TECHNIQUES TO WRITE A BETTER FIRST DRAFT

Based on personal experience working with a privately hired developmental editor and the editorial staff at three publishers, Donna takes a look at how to use the revision process to write a better first draft–from copy edits to developmental content. In this self-editing talk learn how to build your revision toolkit and apply it to the first-draft process, including; world building, narrative flow and logic, character development, and undeveloped plot lines. Donna will help you create the game plan of looking at your first-draft in a final-draft light to write that story stronger and tighter with more emotional impact from the get-go.

GET YOUR MANUSCRIPT PAST THE GATEKEEPER!

Based on personal experience as an intern for the Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency, Donna shares what can get your manuscript past the gatekeeper (the intern!) and in the hands of the agent. Literary agents are overwhelmed with submissions from writers of all levels and their time is limited–allowing them to be choosier than ever with the titles they represent. They may request a full manuscript if your premise, query, and first few pages shine–but if you can't deliver on the rest of the story then the book you've taken years to write will be discarded for the next submission. You'll take a look at the 13 most common stop-reading mistakes Donna experienced as a first-reader intern that led her to recommend the manuscript to an agent or pass–and why. Have you had your manuscript requested over and over only to have the door closed on your work after that? In this session you'll come away with a handy list of problems that could be plaguing your manuscript and keeping you from getting an agent. Addressing these issues, before sending it out again, could power up your story and get it past the gatekeeper.

Sample one-hour marketing lectures:

7 WAYS TO MARKET YOUR NEW RELEASE

Benefit from Donna's experience of having three books release within six weeks of each other, hitting the Amazon bestseller lists, and staying there. She shares the basics on how to successfully launch your book–from social media to advertising to giveaways. Learn the steps to managing a Facebook party, preparing for a blog tour, finding best-fit reviewers, engaging authors to blurb your book, and expanding your book's exposure on Twitter. To advertise or not? Donna explains what paid advertising can work and how the timing of your advertising is critical to its success. This book launch overview will help you send your new release on its way into the right reader hands–and sell more books!

5 THINGS TO START DOING RIGHT NOW BEFORE YOU GET A BOOK DEAL!

Even if you don't have a literary agent, a book deal, or a polished draft, Donna will show you what you can do right now to successfully pave the way to an author career before your book is published. Learn how to build a strong author foundation that includes; creating a peer support network, forming relationships with authors in your genre, sharing the wisdom you already have (and may not know it), volunteering for industry organizations, and connecting with readers via social media (yes, before that book is out!). Creating an author platform takes time and building it slowly can make this overwhelming process not only easy and manageable, but fun! Attendees will come away with the steps to launch their author platform over time as they continue to seek publication.

WHAT ATTENDEES ARE SAYING:

"Aren't writers supposed to revise AFTER clicking the final period on that first draft? That might be the rule, but Donna Galanti tells you how to use tried and true revision strategies to write your first draft better in the first place. I went to her session recently and found her suggestions relevant and effective. I highly recommend *Use Revision Techniques to Write a Better First Draft*." –Brenda Havens, author of *Gabby Goose Gets Going*

"Donna Galanti sets learners at ease with her accessible demeanor, confident knowledge, and well organized presentations. In the marketing lecture I attended, she helped daunted introverts accept that social media and publishing go hand-in-hand for today's writer, and that ideally, platform building, like writing, deserves years of pre-publication devotion. For beginners starting out or authors catching up, her clear, step-by-step suggestions untangle what can seem like an overwhelming jumble of marketing tasks. I highly recommend Donna as a speaker. "–Kathryn Craft, author of *The Far End of Happy* and owner of *Writing-Partner.com*

CONTACT:

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