



Photos by Robyn Graham Photography

## SAMPLE TALKS

**DONNA GALANTI** writes adventures for kids and grownups. She is the author of the bestselling paranormal suspense *Element Trilogy* and the children's fantasy adventure *Joshua and The Lightning Road* series. Donna is a contributing editor for International Thriller Writers the *Big Thrill* magazine, a writing contest judge at nycmidnight.com, and regularly presents as a guest author at schools and teaches at writing conferences. She's lived from England as a child, to Hawaii as a U.S. Navy photographer. You can find her books, resources for writers, and upcoming events at [www.ElementTrilogy.com](http://www.ElementTrilogy.com). For more information on her writing for teens and tweens visit [www.DonnaGalanti.com](http://www.DonnaGalanti.com).

### ***Sample one-to-two-hour craft lectures:***

#### **BUILD SUSPENSE: MEET YOUR READERS IN THE MIDDLE**

Suspense isn't only for thrillers and who-dun-its. Every book in every genre needs a way of building the kind of tension that keeps the reader turning pages. These techniques are all the more effective if you invite the reader to participate in an active reading experience. Donna will share how to meet your audience in the middle through raising questions, strategically disseminating information, setting the mood, and YES – going S-L-O-W!

#### **HARNESS YOUR INNER CHILD TO WRITE FOR CHILDREN**

Whether you write for children now or are considering it, Donna will share how to harness your childlike wonder and create an engaging story idea that tweens and teens can connect with while steering clear of stories that can fall flat. Through writing techniques that will help you get inside the minds of young readers and see what issues they face, you will learn to write a story that gets inside their hearts.

## **GET YOUR MANUSCRIPT PAST THE GATEKEEPER WITH REVISION TECHNIQUES!**

Based on personal experience as an intern for a NYC literary agency, having worked with a privately hired developmental editor, and the editorial staff at three publishers, 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. Take a look at the most common stop-reading mistakes Donna experienced as a first-reader intern that led her to *not* recommend the manuscript to an agent—and why. In this self-editing talk learn how to build your revision toolkit and apply it to the first-draft process, including; world building, dialogue, narrative flow and logic, character development, and undeveloped plot lines. 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.

## **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.

### ***Sample one-to-two-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 finding best-fit reviewers, engaging authors to blurb your book, and expanding your book's exposure on social media. 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!



## **7 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, avoiding rookie mistakes, debunking debut author myths, forming relationships with authors, sharing the wisdom you already have (and may not know it), working with industry organizations, and connecting with readers (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.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING 101 FOR AUTHORS: PREPARE TO PRESENT**

As authors, we need to be in the public eye. Often this includes presenting at conferences, being a guest author at conventions, giving school assemblies, doing group author events, and more. Saying YES to these opportunities will force you to get over your public speaking fear. Donna will share techniques for preparing and presenting at events, how to combat anxiety, tips to creating your presentation, what visual aids work well, and how to "set the stage". Donna will also guide you on how to share your expertise now (yes, even before published!) and how to find your ideal first "gigs" to present at for practice and confidence-boosting. Doing public events can create many new opportunities for you as an author, so get started today with jumping in to public speaking – and discover how much fun it can be!

## **SCHOOL VISITS 101: PRESENTATIONS & GETTING THE GIGS**

Your children's book is soon to be released and one of the best ways to get it in the hands of your readers (and keep your book in print) is doing school visits! You've invested a lot of time, energy, and emotion into your book – what can you do to make sure it captures the spotlight? Donna will guide you on how to develop a tailored school presentation (whether in-person or Skype), create a fee schedule, connect with educators, get testimonials, work with bookstores, and book the gigs. Find out more about this direct and lucrative connection to your readers! Donna will also share her PowerPoint school visit presentation with attendees.

## WHAT ATTENDEES ARE SAYING:

"Donna is a professional and a pleasure to work with. She shared strategies with me that not only helped lead to the publication of my first novel, but also helped me secure my dream agent. I have followed her expert advice on positioning myself and my first novel during the all-important marketing period before and after publication. Aside from her expertise, her enthusiasm is infectious and she's a truly kind person." –[Kate Brandes](#), author of *The Promise of Pierson Orchard*

"I recently took your class *5 Things to do Before a Book Deal* at the Doylestown Bookshop. Your presentation style was energetic and inviting. The workshop was truly fantastic! I wanted to say thank you for sharing so much information to help newer authors like myself. You've got so many insights that are invaluable to writers and hopeful authors-to-be. It was a joy to benefit from your passion for writing and for helping other authors be successful! To writers: don't miss Donna's class!" –Christa Tinari, national speaker and author of *Create a Culture of Kindness in Middle School*, [www.peacepraxis.com](http://www.peacepraxis.com), (*Doylestown Bookshop Writers Series*)

"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* (*The Write Stuff Conference*)

"Your class on *5 Things to do Before a Book Deal* was amazing! Your energy and enthusiasm is empowering. You were very engaging and personable. We could have listened to you for another hour. You inspired me in many ways with my writing. Extremely informative. Looking forward to the next class." –Margaret Grandinetti, writer and artist (*Doylestown Bookshop Writers Series*)

"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](http://Writing-Partner.com) (*Liberty States Fiction Writers Conference*)

"I very much enjoyed both of your workshops that I attended (*Get Your Manuscript Past the Gatekeeper* and *5 Things to do Before a Book Deal*). Your energy and enthusiasm were contagious -- better than caffeine! And the information you shared really interesting and helpful." –Gretchen M. (*Pennwriters Conference*)

"Donna Galanti is the real deal. She truly wants to help her audience grow as writers, and she digs deep to offer foundational insights and unique tips. I enjoyed her workshop so much I went back for seconds. Thank you, Donna!" –Gen A. (*Pennwriters Conference*)

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