



Rock Your Book Outline: 10 Must Haves

Table of Contents

Introduction

1. The Title

2. The Introduction

3. Synopsis/Summary

4. Audience

5. Ideal Reader

6. Author Goals

7. The Angle

8. The Content

9. The Chapters

10. The Background

Bonus: The Conclusion

About Corinne

Introduction

There are many things to consider as you sit down to write your book. Of course, you've thought about what content you want to include, you may even know the main points you want to make, but have you considered who your audience is and what they'll get out of it? And what about what YOU want from it? What are the reason(s) for writing your book? These items and the

accompanying questions help you delve into topics you might not have thought about as integral to writing your book. Once you can answer all these questions, you'll know what to include in your book -- it will be clear what you want to write.

1. Title: It's important to have a working title. It can change, but it gives you direction. Consider having a subtitle. For example: Break These Chains of Love: A New Paradigm for Relationship.

Insider secret: Go to Amazon.com and do a search on any prospective title you'd like to use. Be sure no one else is using it.

Insider secret: Coupled with this, what do you see on the cover? I like to create a drawing (even if it's stick figures or something from Google images) and place this on my desk while I'm writing. It acts as a container for the book to drop into.

2. Introduction: Your introduction is a selling tool. It should let the reader know in compelling terms why they want to read it. What problem will it solve for them? What do they miss by not reading it?

Insider secret: Your introduction should be written at the **completion** of the book. It must succinctly sum up everything you said. You can't know that until **after** the book has been written.

3. Synopsis/Summary: This is the book description and promise. What is your premise or main point? Can you summarize it in a sentence or two? A paragraph? Think of what you've read on the back of a book jacket.

4. Audience: Who is your target audience? What will they get from reading the book? What issue(s) will you solve for them?

5. Ideal Reader: Picture your ideal reader. How do they describe your book to their friends at a party? What would you *want* them to say?

Tip: When you create with this intention, it's a lot more likely to happen.

6. Author Goals: What do YOU plan to get out of the book? Why do you want to create it?

There are many reasons people want to write a book:

- Gaining an audience
- Helping/teaching/empowering your existing audience
- Finding students/leads

- Becoming an expert in your field
- Making a successful career change
- Landing speaking engagements

Which of these are true for you? You should choose at least two.

7. The Angle: What do you have to say that's new and interesting or valuable to your audience? Do you have an interesting slant?

8. The Content: What are the core points you're making for your audience? What are the main points you want the audience to take from your book? This information will make up the body of your book.

Insider secret: Just do an entire brain dump of everything you can think of that you want to include in this section, you can go back and organize it later.

9. The Chapters: Once you've figured out what the content is, you'll need to divide it up into chapters. Each chapter should make one logical point and have data, research and/or a personal story to make it real.

Insider secret: Personal stories are the most powerful pieces of your writing. By seeing what and how you accomplished something, you empower your readers to feel they can achieve their goals too.

10. The Background: What background information/history does your reader need to have to understand the points in your book? What does she need to know? How will you explain it?

Bonus: The Conclusion: Providing your readers with a clear summary of your points is the best thing you can do. It doesn't just deliver value to the reader, it makes the book more memorable, which helps you sell more books.

The conclusion gives you a chance to show the bigger picture and then really drive home the overall lesson(s) you want to convey.

And speaking of conclusions, that concludes my 10 must haves to rock your book outline. Put these into practice and you'll know what you're writing in your book and what stories you want to include.

Try these recommendations and see how you do. If you'd like to work with me on creating an outline for your book, check out: [So You Wanna Write a Book](#)

About Corinne

I am a best-selling author and writing mentor who helps heart-centered people write books. My clients come from all walks of life – they are entrepreneurs: mediums and healers, life coaches, attorneys and others – but whatever their calling, they all write books that transform the lives of others.

They want to make a difference in people's lives but may not know where to start. I help them clarify their message, get writing and complete a manuscript.

If you want to join my community, for e-mail updates & promotions, click here to sign up:

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