

Graham, Christopher – The Next Great American Novel
chrisg@bksp.org – 732-267-6449 (Physical/mailling address is optional)

Logline (single spaced): This is a brief and very concise one-or two-sentence description of your book and its hook, written in such a way that anyone who reads it will immediately drop what they're doing and say, "*I absolutely have to read this book!*"

The opening pages should be double spaced and start immediately below the logline.

There's no need to waste valuable space by writing "Chapter One," although if you have a chapter title, you may want to include that below the logline.

Because of the structure of our small-group workshops, the agents who will listen to, and critique, your opening pages do not have the benefit of having first read your query. That's why we ask you to include the logline; to give the agents a sense of what your book is about before they start reading.

Be sure to include your relevant contact information in the "Header" section of each of your opening pages. A separate title page is not necessary and will often become lost or discarded. In MS Word, go to the "View" tab at the top, scroll down and click on "Headers and Footers" to access the header area of the page (above). The header information will automatically carry over onto the second page.

Don't end the second page abruptly or in mid-sentence. If you need to use a third sheet of paper to finish a sentence or brief paragraph so as not to interrupt the flow of the piece and/or finish at a natural breaking point, don't hesitate to do so.

Do not include an entire third page.

Do not include a picture of yourself, or a mock-up of what you think the book cover would/should look like.

Do not include maps, drawings, bribes, notes or various other accessories and additions.

Graham, Christopher – The Next Great American Novel
chrisg@bksp.org – 732-267-6449 (Physical/ mailing address is optional)

Do not staple your query letters to your opening pages. The query letter workshops are entirely separate from the opening page workshops, with different agents in each, so you will need to keep your query letters separate from your opening pages.

DO staple each set of two opening pages together.

Most important of all: don't panic and don't worry.

The purpose of the small-group workshops is twofold:

1) To gain valuable insight into the minds of the literary agents and to try and understand how they evaluate your query letters and opening pages. You should expect honest, objective feedback with the intent of making your work stronger and avoiding common mistakes that most writers make.

2) To receive that all-important exposure to the literary agents who are actively seeking material in your genre. You may be asked to submit further materials. You may receive glowing praise on your query letters and/or opening pages and then decide to follow-up after the workshop and ask if the agent would like to see more. Or, you may simply receive valuable constructive criticism that will help you craft a stronger query letter and/or opening that can be used to attract a different agent. Because these are workshops, and not pitch sessions, you will also have the opportunity to query these same agents at a later date with revised, stronger material.

Any questions, or anything we can do to help, please do not ever hesitate to call me (732-267-6449) or email either myself (chrisg@bksp.org) or Karen Dionne (karendionne@bksp.org).

Thank you, and GOOD LUCK!

Christopher Graham