

Preparing for a Skype Author Visit

When planning an online author visit, here are answers to the most commonly asked questions, as well as things you should know to ensure that your visit goes as smoothly as possible.

FAQ

What kind of equipment do I need?

You will need a computer – PC or Mac – with a high-speed Internet connection. Most schools prefer to use a projector to display the videoconference. I also recommend that you have a webcam and microphone, and that you test these prior to the event.

My school district doesn't allow Skype. What do I do?

In addition to Skype, I also use ooVoo. Some districts who firewall Skype will allow ooVoo. Speak with your IT department about using ooVoo instead of Skype. If you cannot use Skype or ooVoo, I may not be able to visit with your students online.

What do I need to do to prepare my students?

The best thing you can do to prepare your students for my online author visit is to ensure they are familiar with my books. The more you read to them from my books (or have them read to one another), the more excited they will be about the upcoming visit. I also recommend you have your students prepare questions in advance for the Q&A portion of the session.

What can I expect during the session?

In my 30-minute sessions, I usually spend the first 15 minutes sharing poems and pictures with students, and talking to them about how I got interested in writing. The second half of the session is spent answering their questions. In my 45-minute sessions, I also spend 15 minutes writing with your students.

Additional Information

In order to use Skype, you will need to sign up for a free account at <http://www.skype.com> and download and install their software on the computer you will be using for the online session.

Once you have signed up, please email your Skype ID to me and or my assistant. I will add you to my list of contacts, and you will need to approve my contact request in Skype. Alternatively, you can add me to your contact list in Skype by selecting Contacts > New Contact... from the menu.

My Skype ID is **kenn.nesbitt**

If you have any other questions, please let me know.