

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 Zoom. Some districts who firewall Skype will allow Zoom. Speak with your IT department about using Zoom instead of Skype. If you cannot use Skype or Zoom, 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?

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 next 15-20 minutes I will write a new poem with them, and the last 10-15 minutes will be for Q&A. It's best if you have your students prepare their questions in advance of my visit.

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.

IMPORTANT: If you already have Skype installed on your computer, please make sure you have the latest version. (Help > Check for Updates...). Older versions do not support "screen sharing," which I make use of during my presentations.

Once you have signed up, please email your Skype ID to me. 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 searching for my Skype ID and then sending me a text message within Skype.

My Skype ID is **kenn.nesbitt**

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