The Step-by-Step System for Booking and Delivering A+ Author Visits in Schools

MODULE 6 - Unit 1
Virtual Author Visits

Virtual Visits

- Skype, Google Hangout, FaceTime, etc.
- Typically 15-60 minutes
- Lesser Honorarium

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Less expensive for schools
- Less inconvenience (travel, time away from writing, etc.) for authors
- Students can see author's home, writing space, pets, etc.
- Authors can visit more schools than they might otherwise do
- Easy and inexpensive to record

Cons

- Lower honorarium for authors
- Potential for tech issues - calls dropped, connection delays, etc.
- Not direct contact with students
- No book signing component
- Not conducive to in-class games, activities, writing exercises

Questions to Ask

- Who and what size will the audience be? (# of students, ages/ grades)
- Where will the students be (classroom, library, auditorium, etc.)?
- How large will the screen be where I am being projected?
- Will I be able to see and hear the students?

Tips for a Successful Visit

- Make it as interactive as you can
- Shorter presentation, longer Q&A
- Ask the school what the most valuable focus for your content would be
- Provide visual interest: slideshow (screen share), house or office tour, meet my ____ (dog, cat, teddy bear) etc.
- Ask that the students prepare questions in advance and approach the camera to ask them
- Require a tech rehearsal an hour or two before the visit to ensure all equipment is working properly
- Have a fall back plan for internet issues
- Offer to send signed bookplates
- List yourself at: http://skypeanauthor.wikifoundry.com/