

ASHLEY HOPE PÉREZ: SKYPE VISIT GUIDE

In addition to my in-person author events, I offer three main options for Skype events: a formal presentation (usually the choice for large groups), a virtual writing workshop (for aspiring writers), and informal Q&A sessions with smaller groups of students (anywhere from a handful of students to fifty or so). Please read on for the details of each type of Skype visit. Rates follow.

Presentation (45 minutes with 15 minutes for student questions)

My most commonly requested presentation focuses on the two questions I most often hear from students. “How does a person become a writer?” and “Where do you get your ideas?” I share with my audiences how my students and I learned together to establish big goals we could work toward every day. Students see images from my writer’s notebook and hear about my eavesdropping in the halls of high schools as well as other ways I research my novels. Using examples from all three of my novels—or focusing on one that students have read—I show how everything around us (and in us) can be material for writing. During the course of the presentation, they can try out some of my strategies.

Students leave the session with a new vision of what it means to write, a sharpened appetite for reading, and a heightened awareness of their own creative potential.

Virtual Writing Workshop (up to 1 hour)

This session gives aspiring writers a chance to get writing advice and instruction from a professional. The workshop liaison can send up to 3 pages of writing per student (maximum of 12 students) for me to review prior to the workshop. The deadline for submitting student work is 1 week prior to the Skype visit. I will then tailor the workshop to the needs of the group, drawing examples from student work. The workshop session will include a combination of strategies and opportunities for practice.

Informal Q&A and Chat (up to 1 hour)

These sessions are ideal for smaller groups of students, particularly those that have read one of my books or who want to learn more about the particulars of a writer's process. These sessions are casual, but it does help if students each prepare a few questions they would like to ask.

Modifications

Feel free to tell me about interests or curricular needs that are particular to the teens you serve. For example, if your campus focuses on writing across the curriculum, I can highlight strategies for transferring writing or creative skills to history, science, and other fields. With advance planning, I am happy to collaborate with librarians, teachers, and students to tailor a virtual visit to meet the needs of the school.

Logistics

For larger groups (more than 10-15 students), it is important to have a projector and speakers set up so that all students can see and hear. Student questions in larger groups can be handled by giving students a microphone or by having students write questions on index cards. Questions can also be emailed in advance.

Rates

For a formal Skype presentation (45 minutes plus 15 min Q&A if desired), the cost is \$250.

For a virtual writing workshop, the fees are as follows:

- \$275 per hour of Skype time for sessions in which I read student work in advance and tailor visit to student interests, strengths, and needs (up to 12 students)
- \$200 per hour of Skype time for interactive workshops (up to 12 students) without advance tailoring.

Informal Skype visits/Q&As are \$130 for sessions up to an hour.

Rates for special sessions are negotiated depending on the planning required.

Getting Books

To get my books, you can place an order through your local bookstore, Amazon, or Lerner, the parent company of my publisher (1-800-328-4929 or www.lernerbooks.com). If you order from Lerner, any unsold books can be returned, and there is a significant school discount.

Please feel free to check with me before ordering if you have any questions about the age range or content of my books.

Scheduling

Thank you for considering me for an author visit. Please contact me with your desired dates at novels@ashleyperez.com. If you prefer to communicate by voice rather than email, let me know.

About the Author

Ashley Hope Pérez is the author of three award-winning novels for young adults, *Out of Darkness*, *The Knife and the Butterfly*, and *What Can't Wait*. Her latest, *Out of Darkness*, received a Printz Honor for Literary Excellence in Young Adult Literature, the Tomás Rivera book award, and the Américas book award. *Out of Darkness* transports readers to 1937 East Texas where stories of the New London school explosion and love across racial boundaries intertwine. *The Knife and the Butterfly* explores the lives of two teens connected by their struggles—and by an act of violence. *Kirkus Reviews* called it “an unflinching portrait with an ending that begs for another reading.” Her debut novel *What Can't Wait* was inspired by her high school students in Houston and was named to the YALSA 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults list. Ashley is a professor of world literature at The Ohio State University and lives in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband and two sons. She is at work on a fourth novel.

Explore www.ashleyperez.com to learn more about Ashley and her writing, and find her on Facebook and Twitter (@ashleyhopeperez).