Virtual Visits
With Brian Falkner

STREAMING LIVE

It's the next best thing to actually being there! Brian's virtual visits are fun and innovative, streaming live from a purpose-built studio at his home on Australia's Gold Coast.

Platforms:
- ✔ Zoom
- ✔ Teams
- ✔ Webex
- ✔ Google Meet
- ✔ Skype

VIRTUALLY AWESOME!

A live visit is always best, but a virtual visit can still be fun, entertaining, educational and rewarding for your students.

Plus virtual sessions offer some possibilities that are not available with a live visit. See Brian's promo reel for some of the fun ways he uses video technology and CGI effects to enhance his sessions: www.brianfalkner.com/virtualvisits.asp

SESSIONS

Brian's presentation covers his journey to becoming an author and the stories behind some of his books, sprinkled with humour, drama and lots of tips for young writers.

His internationally acclaimed writing course teaches students the skills they need to "Write Like an Author".

For specific workshops visit: www.brianfalkner.com/workshops.asp

Session Lengths:
Brian's virtual visits are the same as his live sessions, from 45 - 60 minutes. Your students will not be fidgety or bored!

RESOURCES

- Posters to promote the visit: www.brianfalkner.com/posters.asp
- Order copies of Brian's books: www.brianfalkner.com/books.asp
- Teacher Resource Kits: www.brianfalkner.com/resource_kits.asp

✉ brian@brianfalkner.com   🌐 www.brianfalkner.com   ⓕ brianfalknerwrites

Virtual Visits
General Guide

BEFORE THE SESSION

Here are some things you can do to ensure the visit goes smoothly

✓ Confirm with Brian the number and **year-level** of the students

✓ Confirm the **platform** you will be using (Zoom, Teams etc)

✓ Schedule a **Tech Check** with Brian at least one day prior

✓ Ensure that the students know at least some of Brian's **books**
  • Ask them to visit Brian's **website**
  • **Read** excerpts from his books in the classroom
  • **Watch** Brian read excerpts: www.brianfalkner.com/brianreads.asp

✓ Discuss **expectations** and procedures with the students
  • Ask students to show **active listening** skills
  • Explain what to do when asking or answering a **question**

✓ **Prepare some questions** but don't be locked into them
  • Spontaneous questions emerging from the talk are much better!

IN A CLASSROOM

✓ The **larger the screen** the better.

✓ If possible, students should sit in a **tight group** in front of the screen:
  • It's easier for the presenter to see and hear them
  • Students can connect and relate better to the presenter

✓ The **teacher** should select the student to answer (or ask) a question
  • OR make **name cards** with the students' first names written in thick, large letters. They raise their card instead of raising their hand

✓ If a student is not close to the webcam they may be hard to hear, in which case the teacher should **relay the responses** to the presenter

FROM HOMES

Here are some tips for students who are connecting from their homes. While these may seem obvious, all are problems authors have actually encountered.

✓ Devices should be aimed so we can see the student, not the ceiling

✓ Students should ensure they display their own name, not that of a parent.

✓ Students should not sit with their backs to a bright window. Background light forces the webcam to compensate so faces get very dark and hard to see

✓ Devices should be placed on a steady surface. Moving it around creates a shaky video that's very distracting and uses *way* more bandwidth