Sample Skype Questions

Have students prepare questions ahead of time and write them on index cards or print them prior to the virtual visit event. I encourage students to ask questions about the books that they have read by the author that have to do with characterization, research for the book, plot, etc… Students will come up with very insightful questions, but they may get nervous when it comes to ask their questions, which is why I like for them to have them written down. I also leave pens and blank note cards on the tables, so that students may jot down questions they may think of while the author is talking. Some students may really want to ask a question, but not have one prepared (or it may have already been asked), so I usually provide some generic questions:

1. Tell me about your book. How did you come up with that (story, angle, idea)?

2. How did you get interested in writing this particular genre (historical novels, mysteries, sci-fi, children's books, etc.)?

3. What kind of research did you do for this book?

4. What's a typical working day like for you? When and where do you write? Do you set a daily writing goal?

5. What is the hardest part of writing for you?

6. What’s the best thing about being an author?

7. What are you working on now?

8. What advice would you give aspiring writers?

9. Do you have any favorite authors or favorite books?

10. What question have you always wanted to be asked in an interview? How would you answer that question?

11. If you were writing a book about your life, what would the title be?