

JUSTIN SOMPER EVENTS: EQUIPMENT & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

ASSEMBLIES:

Screen:

Most of my events now involve a PowerPoint presentation, so we'll need a screen.

In my experience, it's often simplest to send event hosts the PowerPoint in advance.

I will bring the presentation on a USB as "belts and braces" and I can also bring my own laptop. This is a small Macbook which – annoyingly - only has one socket for a power cable. I have an HDMI connector which is usually sufficient for connecting to your in-house tech.

Microphones:

By now, I'm pretty good at projecting, especially in school halls with good acoustics. However, it is helpful to have a mic for audiences over 150. If you have a second mic (and someone to manage it), this can be helpful when it comes to questions from the audience.

Small table:

Nothing fancy – just somewhere for me to plonk a bottle of water, my notes and maybe a few copies of my books.

Note:

In line with my general approach, I prefer to present on a level with the audience rather than from up on a stage. However, I am fine to present on a stage if numbers and sight-lines make this preferable.

Similarly, I prefer not to be hidden behind a large podium! I often bring along a music-stand as somewhere to place my notes without creating a barrier between the audience and me.

WRITING AND CREATIVITY WORKSHOPS:

Screen: See above.

Whiteboard:

For writing workshops, I tend to use this at a couple of points. It's really helpful if it is separate to the main presentation screen so we don't lose one when we're accessing the other.

Microphone:

In workshops, a mic is often helpful even when working with quite small groups, as it makes it easier to get their attention when they are in the midst of excited creative discussions. A second mic is really helpful here as I frequently invite students to read their own work and they can be quite shy and/or softly spoken.

Small table: See above.