

ASK ME ANYTHING

On The Value of Office Hours

Beginnings

- Began in 2009
- When onsite, offered in two half-hours (5:30/6:00) before class.
- Now conducted on Zoom, no time restrictions
- Also offered 20 minute one on ones in the Writers Studio

Format

- Open discussion - ask me anything.
- Student needs can range.
 - Some want face time
 - Some have specific craft question
 - Some want to know about the publishing business.
 - On occasion, I propose the session.
- Held to 30 minutes.

Most Common Topics

- POV deep dive, usually third person
- Writing the Other
- Agents/Query letters

Value

- Students feel seen, taken seriously.
- Provides a safe space to talk.
- Creates connections with students and deeper knowledge of their project
- Seems to be a correlation with student retention.

Risks?

- Students may ask for repeated meetings.
- Students may ask you to read something.
- Over hundreds of meetings - nothing inappropriate has transpired.

Questions?

Email: sarvasnovel1@gmail.com