**HOW TO CREATE AN AWESOME ESCAPE ROOM**

**Step 1: Begin with the end in mind.**
The first step is deciding what information you want your students to show you they know. You should probably choose no more than a few main concepts that will be reviewed in different puzzles/tasks.

**Step 2: Add the puzzles, riddles, and locks.**
The great thing about escape rooms is that the puzzles the students need to solve in order to “win” or “escape” don’t have to be overly complicated. Close readings with questions afterward whose answers have certain letters highlighted will work just fine. You can also try math problems whose numbers are a lock combination, or a riddle about an event in social studies. The key is a balance between easy, moderate, and challenging tasks.

**Step 3: If you build it, they will come.**
This step is probably the most fun, as well as the most time-consuming. Once you’ve decide what concepts you’ll be asking the students to review and what types of puzzles you will use, you can begin to organize the activity. It’s often helpful to role play (mentally) your activity before you run through it with a class. Make sure they are challenged, but not overly frustrated. Then, build out each step by making sure that it makes sense logically to arrive at the correct answer.

**Step 4: The dress rehearsal.**
You have to run through the activity in your mind to make sure you’re not missing anything important. If you have a guinea pig group available, that is even better. They will always find the flaws in your plan!

**Step 5: Time to ESCAPE!**
Today the students will be experiencing your escape room. Feel free to go a little overboard with your theme or decorations (suspenseful music, signs with ominous “Do you have what it takes?” messages, etc.). Most of all, take a breath because you’re in for a fast-paced, crazy fun day. Your students are going to love this and you’re going to love seeing them excited about learning, working collaboratively, persevering through challenges, and walking out of your room talking about how today was awesome!