Creating an Escape Room for your Class: The Process

Created by Lauren Johnson for Wasatch Back 2019

1. Pick objectives and skills.
   a. How will you assess them? What should they look like? Will there be reading, speaking, listening, writing, etc. involved? How will you record and grade?
   b. Remember that this is about development also. How will you know that your students are in the process of developing the skills you are looking for?

2. Make a rubric.
   a. Keep it simple.

3. Choose a theme.
   a. Brainstorm a few. Play around with them. Which is the most interesting? The most engaging? The most authentic to the curriculum/objectives?

4. Choose a conflict.
   a. Is this a mystery? A race against time? A science experiment gone wrong? What elements do you need to include?

5. Create characters involved and their relationships.
   a. If applicable, this is where you decide who had the means, motive and opportunity to commit the crime, etc.

6. Decide on the format.
   a. How are you going to participate? Will you be out of the room, in the room, connecting over the internet? How many students will be in the room at a time? If only a few, what will the others be doing?

7. Start creating!
   a. Genially is a great way to go as they have premade templates in English and Spanish.
   b. If you want to use a timer, Google “Online countdown timer”. Lots of options.

8. Test it out, change it up, and edit.
   a. Take it out for a spin, ask colleagues, family, former students to try it out.

9. Take it to the students!
10. Reflect, change, and try it again.
11. Share with others!
How in the world can I do this?

Want to try an escape room with your class but aren’t sure you have the time? Try out some of these ideas to help you get going! There’s no reason for you to do all of the work!

- **Collaborate with teachers at other schools and across grade levels.** Use Genially’s “Add collaborators” feature to co-create, or simply share links to already made escape rooms with other teachers.

- **Have the students make the escape rooms/use as exam prep.** Have students go through the above process to create an escape rooms for other classes in the school, across the district, etc. Do this as review/preparation for assessments. In DLI, the blue class can make a room for the green class and vice versa. In upper grades, 1st period can make one for 3rd period, etc. If you have a **parent** who loves writing, ask for them help on the brainstorming and storyline.

- **Try one out for a class party.** No mess to clean up after, keeps brains involved and the students have fun. Holiday themed escape rooms are easy to use across grade levels and classes.

- **Create a room as a PLC.** With 10-15 minutes of work each PLC, you can easily have an escape room for each term. Use it during WINN/STRETCH/TIER 2-3 time, as exam prep, as a class party, etc.