



VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOMS FOR ENGAGING LEARNERS

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INTRODUCTION & DISCLOSURES

- A nurse since 2002, teaching full-time since 2014
- Certifications in critical care nursing and nursing education
- Entering dissertation phase of PhD in nursing education
- Life-long St. Louisan!
- No disclosures





OBJECTIVES

- By the end of this presentation, attendees will:
 - Describe the evidence supporting escape rooms as a teaching and learning strategy
 - Create a basic virtual escape room
 - Discuss potential applications of virtual escape rooms in their teaching and learning environments

WHAT IS AN ESCAPE ROOM?

- An active learning approach incorporating game-based learning (Smith & Davis, 2020)
- Can be physical or virtual (online)
- Participants follow a narrative-based challenge using puzzles, tasks, and a time limit (Fotaris & Mastoras, 2019)



REVIEW OF EVIDENCE- ADVANTAGES

- Teamwork & Collaboration, community building
- Student enjoyment & engagement and Increased motivation
- Student-reported learning gains
- Improvements in critical thinking and problem-solving
- Leadership skills (Fotaris & Mastoras, 2019)
- Foundational knowledge gains, application of learning, and self-reflection (Hermanns et al., 2017)
- Improved course retention rates and grades (López-Pernas et al., 2019)





REVIEW OF EVIDENCE- CHALLENGES

- Time and resources (Fortaris & Mastoras, 2019)
- Class sizes (particularly for physical rooms) (Fortaris & Mastoras, 2019; Kubin, 2020)
- Student frustration if cuing/clues not available (Cates et al., 2020; Hermanns et al., 2017)



WHAT MAKES AN ESCAPE ROOM GREAT ?

- It tells a story!
- Visuals- Images, videos, audio
- Address all domains of learning (affective, cognitive, psychomotor)
- Based on a learning theory
- Synchronous virtual rooms work better than asynchronous (Neumann et al., 2020)
- Pilot/test multiple times (Fotaris & Mastoras, 2019; Smith & Davis, 2020)
- Encourage students to search for information
- Prebriefing and Debriefing are essential (Cates et al., 2020)

INTRODUCTION TO GOOGLE FORMS



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Questions

Responses

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Form description

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☒ Multiple choice ▼

☐ Option 1

☐ Add option or [add "Other"](#)



Required ☐



EXAMPLE ESCAPE ROOM

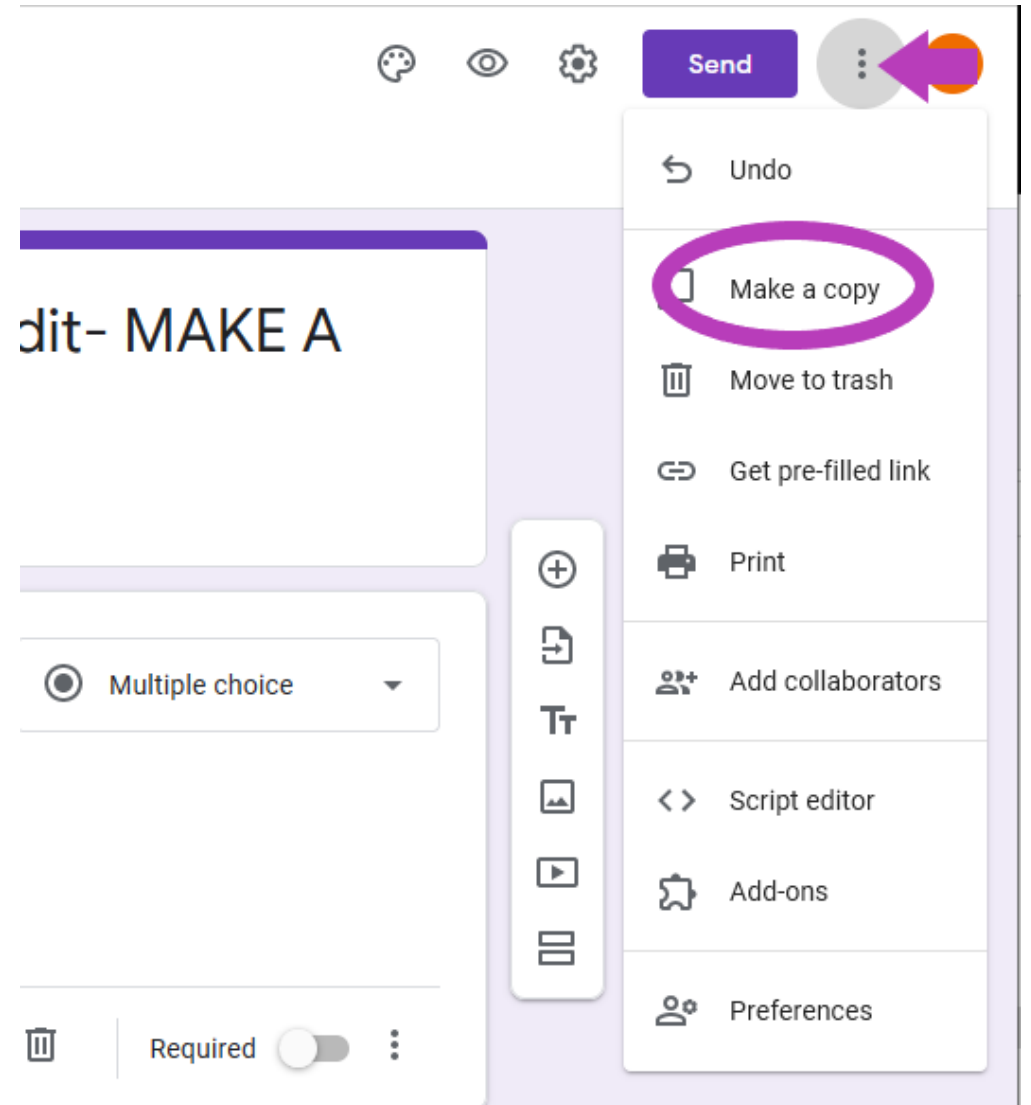
- Created for pre-licensure nursing students
- Activity took about an hour to complete
- Students were a mix of in person and online synchronously
- Two instructors for questions
- Positive feedback and reflection



DON'T WORRY-
HERE'S A TEMPLATE

Do NOT edit- MAKE A COPY

<https://tinyurl.com/4vnzh9jc>



REFLECTION

- How can you use a virtual escape room in your teaching and learning environments?
- What topics would be a good fit for this technology?
- Who can be a resource for you at your institution?





QUESTIONS ??

Contact me

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