Escape the Library - Teen Game Night
What is an Escape Room or Breakout?

This is an activity where a group has to work together to find clues and solve problems in order to unlock a box with a desired item, get into a room, or get out of a room within a fixed amount of time.
Why should you try this program?

• It is fun.
• It teaches complex problem solving skills.
• It stimulates creative thinking.
• It encourages teamwork.
• It strengthens communication skills.
• It can be used in a wide variety of themes.
10 Reasons to Play BreakOut.Edu

1. It's fun for everyone!
2. It is adaptable to any subject area.
3. It promotes collaboration and team-building.
4. It develops problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
5. It enhances communication skills.
6. It challenges players to persevere.
7. It builds inference skills.
8. Students learn to work under pressure.
9. It’s student-centered.
10. It’s inquiry-based learning at its best.
What do you need to get started?

• You can obtain a kit from BreakoutEDU.com or collect locks and lockboxes which are also listed on the website.
• Use games that are already created from the open source game page or create your own.
• A timer, online or otherwise.
• Go to an escape room to see what you like and don’t like and for inspiration.
Kits

Our kit (so far)  BreakoutEDU kit
Resources for your Breakout

• **BreakoutEDU.com** - There are tons of games for various subjects and levels, a blog, and a list of links for items which will help you with game development.

• **YouTube** - You can find great countdown timers, game developers explaining how to set up their games, and how-to videos.

• **FaceBook** - There are several breakoutEDU groups, even one for librarians, where members ask for assistance from the others and share what they have put together.

• **Pinterest**

• **Crossword puzzle and word search generators**

• **Morse Code**

• **Maze puzzles**
Oops!
Mistakes that we (or our friends) made or almost made so that you don’t have to.

• Set perimeters so that the kids aren’t in areas where they shouldn’t be.
• Put clear nail polish over the numbers on your locks so that the letters don’t rub off.
• Avoid putting clues near or behind breakable items.
• Have a coworker check your clues to make sure that you don’t have any typos.
• Double check that you really have all of the clues out and hidden.
• Know in advance how you are timing them and have the timer ready.
• Tell them that they should not have to break anything in order to get it to work.
• Keep the instructions for lock changing in one place and refer to them when changing combinations, particularly the directional speed lock. We keep a list of past combinations for all locks in case it doesn’t work so that we can try the last known combination.
Guidelines for our Breakout

- As of this moment, everyone in this room is a team.
- Work together - read clues aloud for your group.
- Clues may be around the room but most clues will lead to others.
- Everything is in good working order so you should not break anything to get inside of it.
- A Hint Card is available if you need help. Using the hint card is a group decision and the majority must agree when to use it.
- You will be given 15 minutes to open all of the locks.
- Some of you will need to find things inside this room or around this room.
- No googling or cell phone use, please.
- Once we are finished, we will tell each group how we broke out.
- Lock demo
Help!

We have something that we hoped to share with you in our breakout box but we can’t remember all of the lock combinations. Fortunately, we have clues for the five locks in these numbered envelopes and we need for you to find your team and get your envelope in order to open your lock within 15 minutes.
Your journey begins here...

• You should see a number (1-5) in this slide on your handouts. Please find the other people with your number and use the information in your envelope to help us breakout.

• Don’t forget that you can use a hint if you get stuck.
Questions? Ideas?

Pamela Sweezy
psweezy@lincolncounty.org
(704) 483-3589
Lincoln County Public Library

Mollie Weakland
mweakland@lincolncounty.org
(704) 483-3589
Lincoln County Public Library