The Great Escape: the NIH Grants Policy Statement Escape Room

...with instructional ideas for all kinds of policies.

29 October 2024   SRAI Annual Meeting - Chicago

GOT THE NIH-GPS ESCAPE ROOM IDEA FROM….

SRAI Annual Meeting presentation by Professor Julie Oestreich, University of Findlay, *Gamification to Interview Candidates, Train Employees and Build Effective Teams*

Motivation for the NIH-GPS Escape Room

- The NIH-Grants Policy Statement (NIH-GPS) is a term and condition of every NIH grant award
- Want staff to be more knowledgeable about NIH policy
- Want staff more comfortable using the NIH-GPS
- Learning policy is typically boring
- People learn best by doing
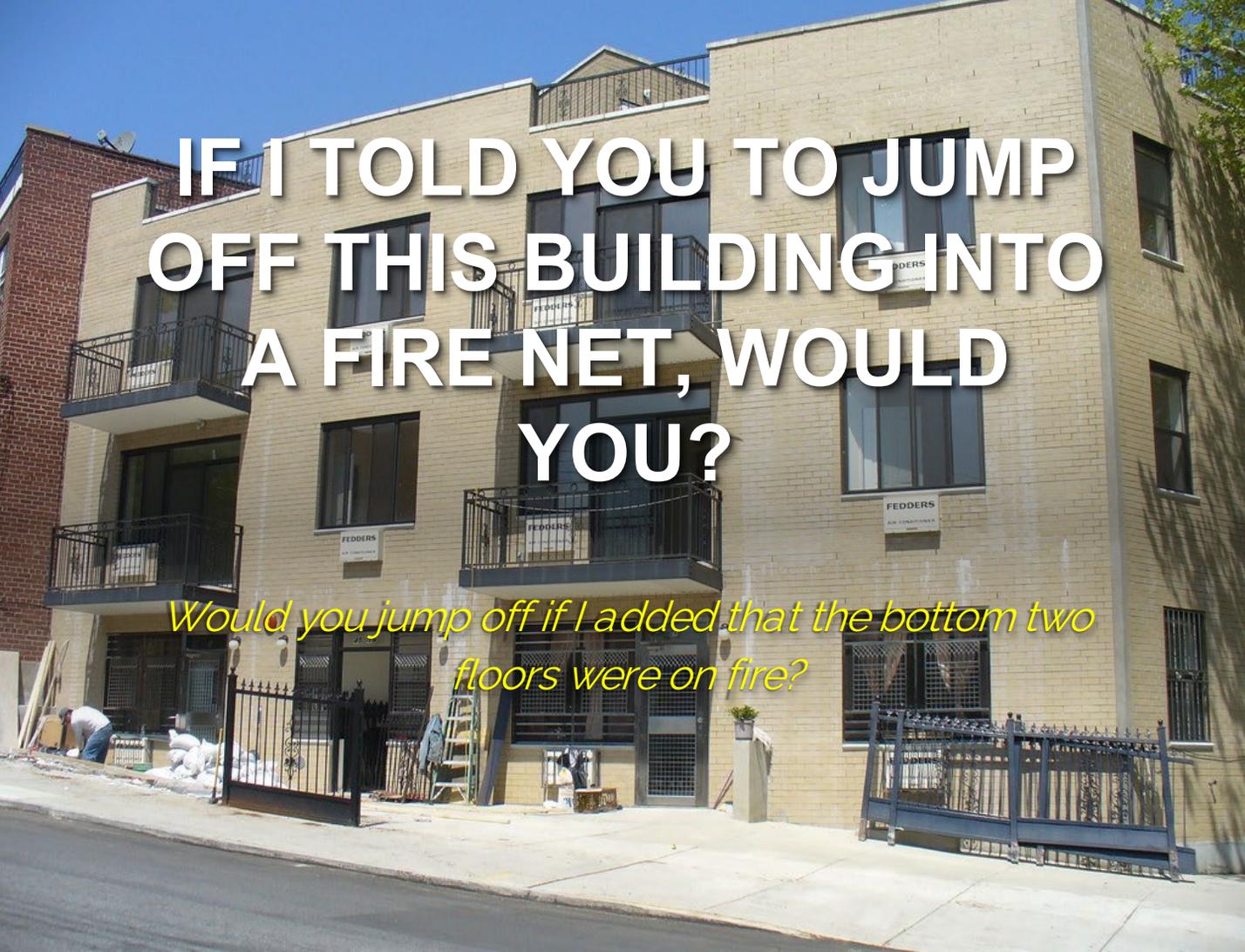
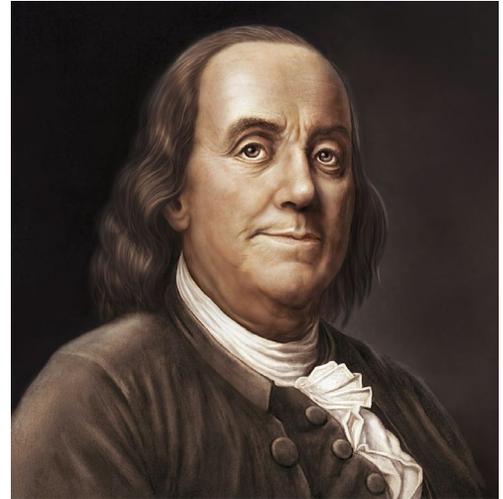IF I TOLD YOU TO JUMP OFF THIS BUILDING INTO A FIRE NET, WOULD YOU?

Would you jump off if I added that the bottom two floors were on fire?

"

Tell me and I forget.

Teach me and I remember.

Involve me and I learn.

RATIONALE FOR DESIGN

First, make some initial choices

- Select the "policy document". The policies should be numbered, even if simply a numbered list. The numbers serve the basis of the escape combination.
- Be creative and have a back story.
- Plan to have the answer at the front of the room or use an actual lock for which you can set the combination

Next, add a component of fun

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me
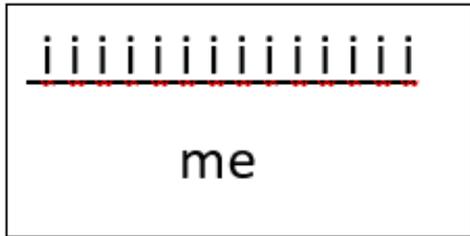
- Can serve as group icebreaker and allow a newbie to shine.
- To determine one digit of the combination, I had groups match a numbered list of NIH Institutes/Centers to the appropriate rebus.

PERSON/ALITY

1. _____

CHTONGUEEEK

2. _____

B
R
E
B R E E D
E
D

3. _____

TESSMALLTINE

4. _____

o L D

5. _____

BLOOD

WATER

6. _____

ADIRECTIONS: Six odd grantee inquiries that need to be forwarded to the right institute or center (IC). Match each of the six to the appropriate IC on the separate list and write down the list number by the message. You will use the sum of those six numbers.

PERSON/ALITY	CHTONGUEEEK	B R E B R E E D E D
NIMH - 20 1. _____	NIDCR - 15 2. _____	NHGRI - 7 3. _____
TESSMALLTINE	o L D	**BLOOD** WATER
NIDDK - 16 4. _____	NIA - 8 5. _____	NIHLBI - 4 6. _____

ADIRECTIONS: Six odd grantee inquiries that need to be forwarded to the right institute or center (IC). Match each of the six to the appropriate IC on the separate list and write down the list number by the message. You will use the sum of those six numbers.

Using the NIH-GPS

- Published annually typically in the fall (in FY24 April 2024) with significant changes document
- Sections are static...e.g., "prior approval for change of scope" will always be found in 8.1.2.5
- Very thorough 14-page table of contents
- Intervening changes published separately in NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts
- "Blame" the NIH

Reminder: your institution's polices take precedent.

An institution may have policies that are more restrictive than the NIH-GPS, just not less restrictive.

LET'S GO TO THE ESCAPE ROOM!!!

GRANTEE QUESTIONS	NIH GPS Section (Blanks =0)					Yes = 1; No=2
The PI needs to purchase a $20,000 piece of essential equipment for the research that has broken. The equipment was not part of the original R01 application, and the we agree with the PI that this purchase does not reflect a change of scope. Is prior approval required?						
It is year 3 of a 5-year award. Our institution's indirect rate has						

The PI needs to replace a $20,000 essential piece of equipment for the research that has broken. The equipment was NOT purchased as part of the original R01 application, We agree with the PI that this purchase does not reflect a change of scope. Is prior approval from NIH required?

No.   NIH-GPS 8.1.1.2

It is year 3 of a 5-year award.   Our institution's indirect rate has risen from 48% to 50%. Will the NIH increase this award to award the additional indirect costs?

No.   NIH-GPS 7.4

An application included foreign travel to permit the PI to collect data. Now awarded they want to use the cheaper foreign carrier for that country for a direct flight, but they are being told they need to use the more expensive U.S. carrier for the direct flight. Is that true?

Yes. NIH-GPS 4.1.11

As awarded funds for the graduate student researcher (GSR) on the R01 grant included the salary $28,000 and appropriate tuition remission and benefits (totaling $61,000). Can we now rebudget and compensate the GSR at the rate of $30,000/year?

Yes. NIH-GPS 2.3.7.9

Does a PI have to be a U.S. citizen to apply for an R01?

No.   NIH-GPS 2.5.4

Is the progress report for a multi-year funded grant due 45 days before it's July 1 anniversary date?

No.   NIH-GPS 8.4.1.3

If the consortium F&A increases an R01 application's direct costs to more that $250,000, must a categorial budget be submitted?

No.   NIH-GPS 2.3.7.1

Last thoughts...

- Get creative juices flowing...google "diy escape rooms"

- Clear instructions...verbal and written

- Assign teams randomly

- Use countdown slides with clues

- Always debrief

- For remote presentations explore using Google Forms with Zoom

Contact Me!

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