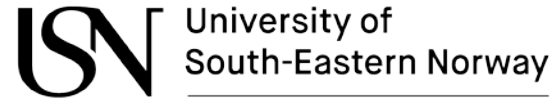


BIP Driving
Sustainable Futures
in Higher Education

Project:
A murder
mystery game



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1.
Presentation
of our small-
scale initiative



Murder mystery escape game The Green conspiracy



The general idea and set-up

Our small-scale initiative is designed to be a fun activity to introduce the topic of sustainability to small groups of participants (4-5) in an engaging and enjoyable manner.

It is ideally suited as an icebreaker or teambuilding activity.

Participants jointly need to solve a murder mystery.

During the game, they can use the information they find or receive during the game to advance in the mystery and identify the murderer.

In this case, we connect the story to sustainability concepts and questions.

The ultimate goal is to spark interest and curiosity about sustainability, suited for all levels of prior knowledge. Ideally, participation in the murder mystery leaves a memorable impression and gets the participants thinking.

Target group and main objectives

Icebreaker or teambuilding activity for participants:

- Getting to know each other (better)
- Suited as intracurricular (e.g. course subject introduction) or extracurricular activity (e.g. student buddy activities)

Face-to-face group activity:

- 4-5 participants per group
- 40 minutes (60 including pre-survey and post-survey)

Intended Learning Objectives (ILOs):

- Foster effective communication and collaborative skills.
- Cultivate critical thinking abilities and enhance problem-solving capabilities.
- Attain a deeper understanding of environmental issues and bolster environmental awareness.

Sneak peak: The setting



Environmentalist and keynote speaker, known for her passionate advocacy for sustainable practices.

Ivy Lu grew up in a small coastal town, where she witnessed the devastating effects of pollution and climate change on her community. This early exposure fueled her passion for environmental advocacy. Ivy studied environmental science and policy, eventually becoming a leading voice in the sustainability movement. She founded an influential nonprofit organization focused on implementing eco-friendly practices in industries worldwide. Ivy's dedication and eloquence have made her a sought-after speaker at events like the Eco-Summit.

Victim:

Ivy Lu, the conference's keynote speaker and a prominent figure in the sustainability movement, is found murdered on the morning of her highly anticipated address.



The scene is set at the prestigious "Eco-Summit 2029", a high-profile climate conference dedicated to finding sustainable solutions for the planet's future. The event is being held in a state-of-the-art eco-convention center nestled in a lush, environmentally-conscious city.

Ivy Lu, the conference's keynote speaker, is found murdered on the morning of her highly anticipated address.

As the investigation unfolds, it becomes clear that her death is linked to the very cause she championed. The murder weapon, a rare and toxic plant, points to someone with extensive knowledge of botany.

Sneak peak: The characters



CEO of a major oil company, notorious for opposing strict climate regulations.



Representative of a powerful mining corporation, suspected of ecological negligence.



Solar energy entrepreneur with a reputation for pushing for clean energy alternatives.



Diplomat from a country known for its reluctance in committing to climate accords.



Spokesperson for a controversial geoeengineering research institute, advocating for unconventional climate solutions.



Camila is a respected botanist renowned for her knowledge of rare and toxic plants. Her expertise is sought after worldwide.



Wolf has been Ivy's dedicated assistant for several years and is well-versed in Ivy's work and relationships.

Imagine you are part of a team of police investigators who need to solve the murder of Ivy Lu.

There are seven suspects and several items of interest at the murder scene.

By answering six sustainability-related multiple-choice questions correctly, you will receive clues to deduce who the murderer is.

What materials do we provide?

Pre- and post-survey

Murder mystery outline for facilitator

Murder mystery props:

- Character cards (separate or as ecosummit attendee list)
- Victim's personal belongings with sustainability clues (e.g. QR code to go to a blogpost)
- Crime scene evidence related to sustainability, climate change, etc.

Six multiple choice questions:

- Correct answers yield clues for mystery resolution

Decision matrix:

- Tool to eliminate suspects and identify the murderer

Final reveal/plot unveiling

Sneak peak: Character examples



Representative of a powerful mining corporation, suspected of ecological negligence.

Terra Oro was raised in a mining town, surrounded by the stark beauty of untouched wilderness. She inherited her family's mining corporation and transformed it into a global powerhouse. However, allegations of ecological negligence have haunted Terra's career. She maintains that her operations are held to the highest standards, but environmentalists remain skeptical. Terra is driven by a desire to prove that her company can coexist with nature and contribute positively to the planet.

Motive:

Terra is suspected of ecological negligence in her mining practices, she fears strict environmental policies.



Diplomat from a country known for its reluctance in committing to climate accords.

Karim Al-Faqr hails from a country rich in natural resources, which has made it resistant to stringent climate accords. He is a seasoned diplomat with a reputation for skilled negotiation and diplomacy. Karim is acutely aware of the delicate balance between economic stability and environmental responsibility, and he navigates international relations with a careful hand. He believes in finding pragmatic solutions that benefit both his nation and the planet.








Motive:

Karim represents a country known for hesitating on climate accords, he wants to maintain his nation's economic stability.

Why not all plastics are being recycled yet

by [Loïc De Weerd](#) / November 23, 2021

After more than two centuries of using resources for one lifecycle only, our generation is one of the first to experience the severe consequences of this lifestyle. Partly due to the carbon emissions that are linked to excessive mining and discarding material, global temperature rises, Arctic ice melts, sea levels rise, land floods, severe weather events become the new standard. In this research, we have analyzed – from a market perspective – how the transition towards circular plastics can be accelerated in Flanders and the European Union.

Suspect	Clue 1	Clue 2	Clue 3	Clue 4	Clue 5	Clue 6
						
						
						
						
						
						
						

Team name: _____

Our main suspect: _____

Time: _____

Target group and pre- and post-survey

Target group is ideally diverse:

- Varying familiarity with sustainability
- Diverse cultural perspectives
- Enhances learning and interaction

Pre-Survey (7 Questions):

- Baseline assessment of participants' background, knowledge, and attitudes
- Understanding cultural context before interaction

Post-Survey (7 Questions):

- Four questions for benchmarking pre and post-game knowledge and attitude changes
- Three questions for participant feedback and overall experience assessment

Questions: pre- and post-survey

Pre- and post survey

Murder Mystery: A Green Conspiracy

26/10/23

Pre-game questions:

- 1) How would you rate your awareness of the Climate Crisis? (1 being little awareness, 10 being very aware)
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - 10
- 2) How concerned are you by the Climate Crisis?
 - Not very
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 3) How well do you understand the causes of the Climate Crisis?
 - Not very well
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 4) How well do you understand the role you can play in addressing the Climate Crisis?
 - Not very well
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 5) Rank the biggest barriers to your understanding of the causes of the Climate Crisis (1 being the biggest barrier, 4 being the smallest)
 - Lack of available, readily understandable information
 - Lack of impact on my personal life
 - Lack of concern/interest
 - Not knowing where to start

- 1 -

Pre- and post survey

Murder Mystery: A Green Conspiracy

26/10/23

Rank the biggest barriers to you taking more action in the face of the Climate Crisis (1 being the biggest barrier, 5 being the smallest)

- Lack of government action
 - Lack of corporate action
 - Lack of clear urgency
 - Feeling overwhelmed
 - Not knowing where to start
- 6) How would you rate your country's role in worsening the Climate Crisis? (1 being that your country has little responsibility, 10 being that your country has a big responsibility)
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - 10
 - I don't know

- 2 -

Pre- and post survey

Murder Mystery: A Green Conspiracy

26/10/23

Post-game questions:

- 1) Has your awareness of the Climate Crisis issues improved after playing this murder mystery game?
 - Not much
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 2) How concerned are you by the Climate Crisis after playing this murder mystery game?
 - Not very
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 3) Has your understanding of some of the Climate Crisis issues improved after playing this murder mystery game?
 - Not very
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 4) How well do you understand the role you can play in addressing the Climate Crisis after playing this murder mystery game?
 - Not very well
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - A lot
- 5) Will you talk about this game to your friends?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 6) Has this game inspired you to find out more about the Climate Crisis and your role in it?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 7) Do you think we can improve the murder mystery game? (open question)

- 3 -

2. Reflections on the impact and implementation of the initiative

Planned implementation:

- UAntwerp – Green officers
- UAntwerp, Faculty of Business and Economics – International Buddy Programme (Spring 2024)
- USN – The introduction week for new students
- USN – International exchange students
- Masaryk University – ?
- University of Limerick – ?
- The BIP participants (online version) – December as a Christmas team building party?



Intended impact beyond ILOs:

- Have impact (create curiosity) by having fun
- Increase motivation and enthusiasm for learning about sustainability
- Fostering inclusivity and diversity

3. Reflections on our working process

Challenges:

- Finding the time to work together
 - Tempus fugit
- Making compromises on intentions:
 - How extensive do we want it to be?
 - Which type of participants are available at our university
- Making compromises on:
 - Level/difficulty of questions
 - Amount of materials necessary for a successful pilot

Positive experiences:

- It was a big advantage to start with a physical meeting to get to know each other, before we started group work via Teams.
- We learned a lot ourselves.
- Artificial intelligence can be of help in guiding a creative working process if you ask the right questions and if you are critical towards its output*.

* Disclaimer: We made use of chatgpt and an AI illustrator to work on this assignment.

4. Our learnings

Attitude change:

- We now have a wider perspective on sustainability through participation in this BIP.
- Appreciate small and large scale initiatives
- Different background = different perspective → We learn from each other

Knowledge:

- The materials of our BIP were (partially) an inspiration to form the multiple-choice questions.
- In addition, we sought out knowledge on sustainability stemming from the expertise that was present in our own institutions.

Group work:

- Delegating vs. sharing responsibilities
- Problem solving and compromising
- Time management (or not?)
- Giving and receiving constructive feedback
- Learning to adapt to new situations and be flexible

5. Reflections on the road ahead for our initiative

Adapt to context:

- Hybrid or online delivery
- Colleagues or students

Extended possibilities:

- Divide participants in groups based on pre-survey results
- Differing difficulty levels
- Create flyers with knowledge and (local) initiatives for participants to take home/take action and increase learning and impact

Integrate in a course:

- Make student groups create their own mystery based on course material
- Make it an incentive for students to revise their course materials. Introduces the mystery in the first course and add a question and clue in each consecutive course, allowing them to solve the mystery in the final session.
- Align with the course ILOs in terms of competences and knowledge.

6.
Questions?

