

Mystery Game Formats

Scavenger Hunt Style

Participants are given and/or discover clues to solve a mystery. This typically involves strategically placed clues, puzzles and/or information, which can be solved using library resources. These can be a simple or as intricate as you desire.

Observer / 4th- Wall Style

This is the style incorporated by many murder mystery dinner theatres, where participants watch certain scenes and parts acted out by actors (either scripted or improvisational) and then collect information to solve the mystery. This approach offers an excellent opportunity for community members to have fun acting out the parts, but does necessitate a bit more preparations on the actors' parts and a sufficient number of people to play them.

Interactive Style

Sort of a hybrid of the above two, participants progress through the mystery uncovering and receiving clues, but are also designated parts that determines their role in the mystery (e.g., the femme fatale, the stern detective, the shifty mobster, etc.) They are encouraged to act out and play their parts given the information they receive. By playing their parts for others and following the course of clues, the mystery is able to be solved.