

Evaluation is rarely a smooth-sailing journey and difficulties may arise all the time. With this game, you can learn collectively how to handle with them - or even better - to prevent them from arising. This deck of cards focuses on quality issues with evaluation reports.

How to play?

Position the cards on the table and select three of them. For each card, ask yourselves:

- What should I do in this specific situation?
- What can I do in the future to prevent this from happening?

Discuss the answers collectively.
You're done? Select three other cards and start again!

WHAT IF...?

"The conclusions in the final report don't seem to be based on facts or on systematic analysis."



ABOUT...

This game was created by Thomas Delahais, Quadrant Conseil.

It is largely based on a work led by Claire Tourmen and Euréval on "Action rules for evaluators". Special thanks to Lydia Greunz for editing the cards.

The game is free and available under a free licence to reuse and modify as long as the source is mentioned:

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QUADRANT

"The recommendations in the final report seem insufficiently linked to findings and conclusions of the evaluation."



WHAT IF...

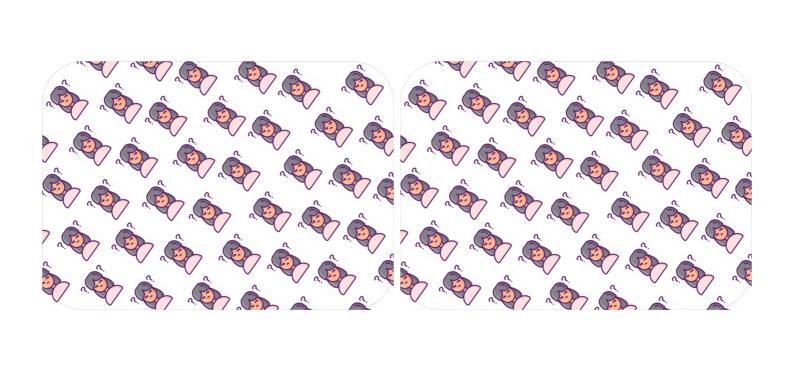
"I have received the draft final report but it doesn't answer the evaluation questions."



WHAT IF...?

"The findings in the draft final report are not always sufficiently supported by evidence. Some of them look like expert statements on the evaluated issue."









criticism." administration of all the report is only here to at the final meeting that Steering Committee said "A member of the 'exonerate' our





WHAT IF...?

now." resources to change that don't have time or report is poor, but we "The quality of the final



marginal revisions)." amend it (or accepts only evaluator refuses to in the final report but the "There are quality issues



adopted and rejects the with the methodologica approach that was member of the Steering "At the final meeting, a tindings accordingly." Committee disagrees

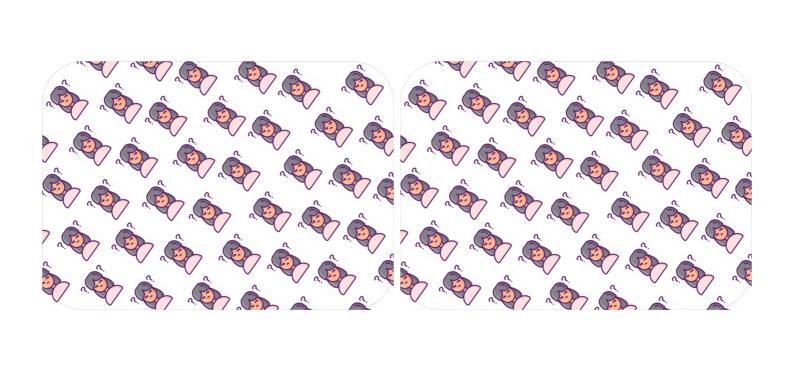


with one specific finding." the quality of the final administration question because they don't agree report, but it's really "Colleagues in the



WHAT IF...?

protocols...)." questions and criteria, of the basic requirements not responding to some methodological (e.g. a theory of change "The evaluation team is relating to the evaluation







"The evaluation team was expecting to be able to compile the data sets which are needed to answer an evaluation question but they were unavailable / of poor quality."



WHAT IF...?

"The members of the Steering Committee disagree about the priorities for the evaluation and the team has just announced they will now follow?

WHAT IF...?

"We are facing political interferences" on methodological choices and/or on how findings and conclusions should be presented and phrased."



VHAT IF...?

"A member of the Steering Committee said that if the report doesn't contain a quantitative assessment, the credibility of findings is doubtful".



WHAT IF...?

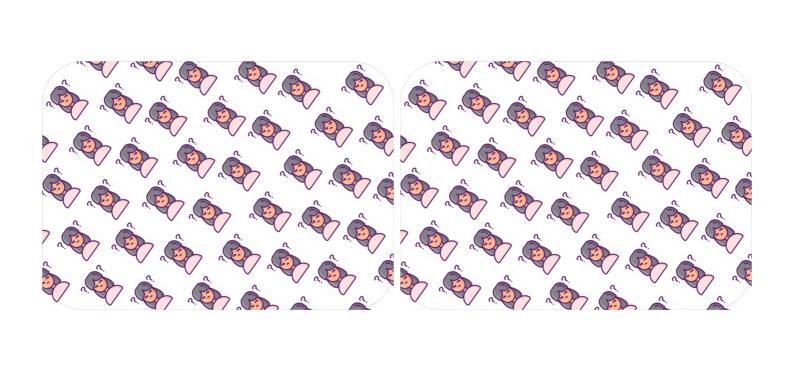
"The evaluation team is not clearly spelling out the concepts or models which are used or is using an inappropriate approach."



WHAT IF...?

"There are too many questions asked in this evaluation for the budget and we know it."









"The evaluation asks whether the objectives pursued were reached but we know that these were unclear / were only partially followed or have changed."



WHAT IF.

"The evaluation is supposed to answer questions formulated when the intervention was first launched but which are not relevant anymore today."



HATIF

WHAT IF...?

"The press is interested in the content of the report but our colleagues fear that it will be used to attack the administration."

charge of the intervention but they did not read it / did not seem interested."

"We sent the final report to the colleagues in



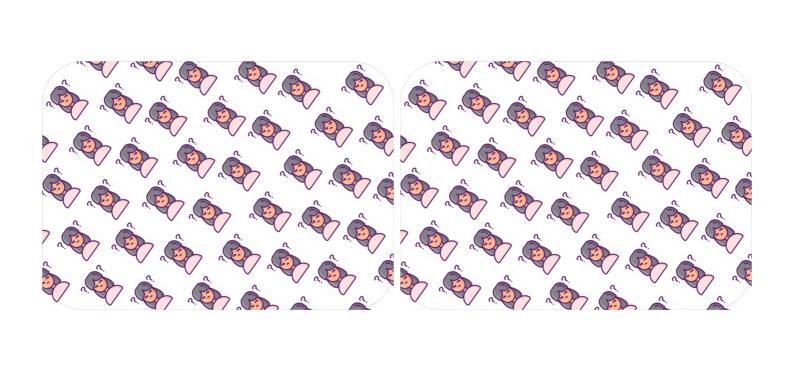
WHAT IF...

"Some findings are counter-intuitive / controversial / have strong implications and I fear that colleagues and other stakeholders will react with disbelief."



WHAT IF...?

"The evaluation was supposed to be 'theory-based' and a theory has been developed at the inception stage, but then it does not seem to have been used later on in the process."







are not clearly spelt out." sources and references our administration wants "The report contains communication, but the to use in future 'promising' figures that





WHAT IF...?

of interest." evaluation team has evaluation will not be a stakeholder says the credible because the "At the inception meeting 'undocumented' conflicts



to challenge them." competencies internally have the know-how or be robust but we don't conclusions seem not to "Some findings and

systematically collected." data on them was not group(s) of people but intervention on specific to assess the impact of "The evaluation intends



groups, but that the negative effect on some the intervention has a stakeholder pretends that report omits to mention "At the final meeting, a



WHAT IF...?

elsewhere." should do 50 interviews. say the evaluation team better used do more, arguing the "The Terms of Reference resources would be They did 40 but refuse to









VHAT IF...

"Colleagues in the administration say the report is not credible because there are some factual mistakes in the information reported."



WHAT IF...



WHAT IF...

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