**Unique Event Categorization Protocol**

*Fright Night - Study 01*

**Task:** To reach a consensus, to the best of our abilities, regarding which section each event described by subjects likely occurred.

**Reason:** There are many factors that might influence emotion regulation decisions and identifying where each of these events took place may explain some of the regulatory behavior we documented.

**Goal:** Ideally, when we are done, we will have identified the location of at least 300 events and can run an analysis to determine whether there are differences in self-regulatory behavior as a result of where the behavior occurred.

**Instructions:**

1. Review the *Unique\_Event\_Key.docx* document, which describes the four sections that participants experienced as well as the major events that occurred within each section. Familiarize yourself with the similarities and differences between the sections. For example, multiple rooms feature fog and strobe lights, but only *Delirium* features fog and green lasers. These sort of unique combinations of elements may be important as subjects describe events!
2. Open the *Unique\_Events\_Primary.xlsx* spreadsheet (or *Unique\_Events\_Pilot.xlsx* if we’re still in the planning stages). You’ll notice that there are five columns:  
   1. **PID** refers to each subject’s unique identifier. Each subject identified multiple events, so each PID should appear multiple times. This will very often not be important in some cases. For example, a subject may describe an event that’s difficult to classify on its own, but looking at their other descriptions may give hints to help narrow down the possibilities.
   2. **EventNum** refers to the order in which subjects recalled events; not necessarily the order in which they occurred. This may also not be very helpful in most cases.
   3. **EventKey** refers to a one-word representation of the event that subjects were asked to provide. This can often be used to help quickly sort events by dominant details. For example, many subjects described the prison bus and made their **EventKey** “Bus”. The spreadsheet has been sorted by this column.
   4. **EventDesc** refers to the detailed descriptions participants gave of each event. This is the primary source of information that you will be evaluating. These are unedited to be as true to subjects’ experiences as possible.
   5. **Judgement** is a blank column and is where you will be recording your assessment of where each event occurred. You may noticed that is it validated; that is to say you can only enter one of four possible options which refer to the names of the different sections. A dropdown arrow should appear if you click on any cell in this column.
3. Go through every row. Read the event description and, to the best of your ability, record where you think the event occurred within the judgement column.
   1. Please only put one section per cell. If you’re between guesses, go with your best guess.
   2. These ratings should be completely independent of one another. Please do not collaborate on or discuss how you are judging any specific events.
   3. If you believe an event’s location is undecipherable (e.g., the description is so generic it could have happened in any of the sections, the description did not happen in any section), leaving judgment blank is acceptable.
   4. You may reorder, add to, or generally modify this document as needed.
   5. If you feel you need to add notes for any row to explain a decision or give yourself a reminder, please do so in column F.
   6. Some descriptions name the section in which they remember the event occurring. This is perfectly fine information to use, but please just be sure that the details do not conflict with the key. For example, if a subject described green lasers, fog, and neon colors, but labeled it as crypt in their description, you might be inclined to write my judgment as delirium, given that those elements did not occur in the crypt.
   7. Another tip that might make this easier is to remember that you can use the search function (ctrl + F on windows / command + F on mac) to find common distinctive elements and categorize them in groups. For example, a bus only appears once within the haunted house, so by searching for “bus”, you can more easily identify events that likely occurred in the crypt.
4. When you are finished, save the .xlsx document in .xlsx format with the name *Unique\_Events\_Primary\_[YOUR INITIALS].xlsx.* Please forward this copy to Billy in our slack group channel.
5. Billy will combine the individual judgment spreadsheets to identify points of contention. We ideally want to strive for as much agreement in our initial judgments as possible (typically at least 85% or greater).
6. We will then meet over zoom to discuss any points of contention within the judgments. This is a very sensitive process in which the two independent raters discuss their rationale for why they classified things as they had, weigh the two opinions, and ideally reach some sort of compromise regarding how the event should be categorized. Billy will facilitate these discussions, but cannot participate so as to not influence opinion.
7. Once all events are classified and agreement has been achieved, Billy will debrief you about why we need this data, how we’re going to use it, and what we expect that we will find with it and thank you profusely for your help!