

# Doing a Giving Game at your Humanist Group

Thanks to [The Life You Can Save](#) and [Intentional Insights](#) for materials and donation funds.

A [Giving Game](#) workshop allows you to learn about donating to charity effectively. Participants can discuss and compare charities and vote on where real money goes to.

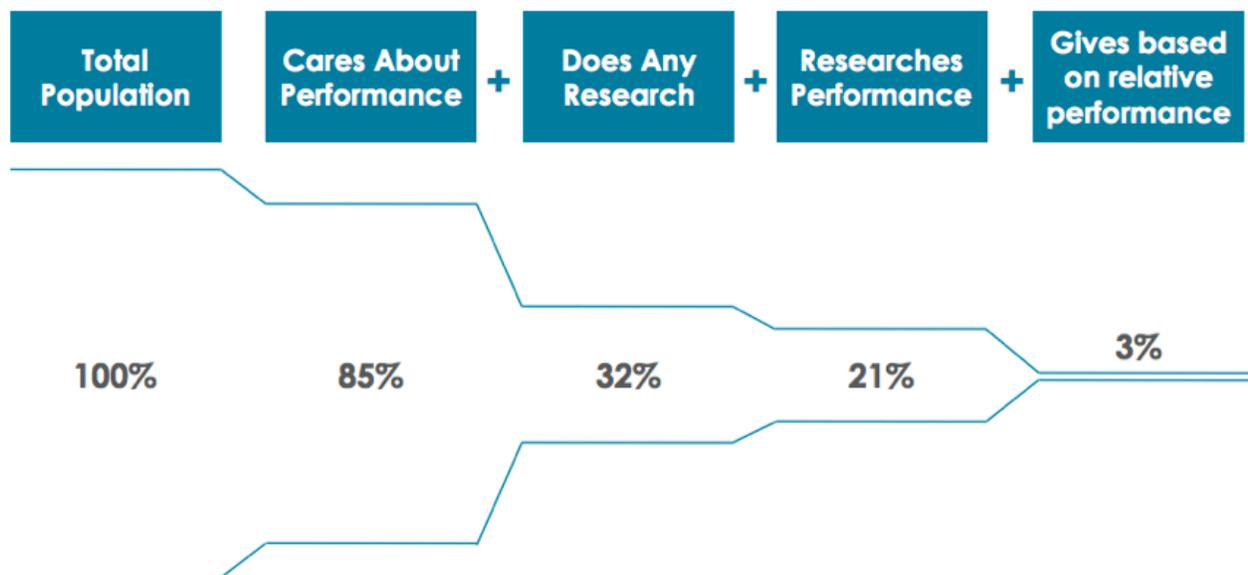
## Activity Overview

Do you want to help improve the world? As reason-oriented people, we don't hold hope for an eternal afterlife, and know that we are creating the world we want to live in.

But have you thought deeply about the best ways to do so? Most people don't. For example, Americans give over \$350 billion a year to charity. Yet, shockingly little thought goes where it goes to – 2/3 of gifts are made [without any research](#) at all!

This creates a huge opportunity – by incorporating reason, science, and evidence into our charitable decision-making, we can dramatically increase the amount of good our gifts can accomplish. Some charities are [hundreds of times more effective](#) than others.

So, overall, only 3% of people donate based on the relative performance of a nonprofit organization



Note: %'s represent total people. So, while 35% research, only 32% care about performance AND research

Past examples of Giving Games:

- [Humanist Society of Singapore](#)
- [Humanist Community of Central Ohio](#)
- [European Humanist Youth Days 2016 \(EHYD\)](#)



*Group discussions at the EHYD conference*

In a Giving Game, your group will learn about 3 pre-selected charities, have a reasoned discussion about their relative merits, and make a real donation to your favourite. It won't cost you a thing – the money will be provided by the non-profit [The Life You Can Save](#).

During the course of the Giving Game, your group can:

- Explore your values, priorities and motivations
- Learn about the evidence you can use to assess whether a charity is making a real impact
- Discuss the ways in which charities can improve the world and how donors choose between them
- Learn about thinking errors that lead donors to miss opportunities to do more good

## Walkthrough

During the Giving Game, your group will learn about, and choose between, 3 charities: [Against Malaria Foundation](#), [Give Directly](#) or [Wikimedia Foundation](#).

These have been selected for a challenging and thought-provoking discussion (prepared slides available). You can also pick an additional charity to research and present. The Life You Can Save will sponsor the donation, contributing €10 per participant.

The outline below gives a sense of how to structure a 75-minute Giving Game. Feel free though to tailor the time to your needs. You can do it by yourselves or with the help of a trained facilitator, who can be present in person or via Skype / Google Hangout.

### *1. Introduction (5 minutes)*

### *2. Present the 3 charities (10-15 minutes)*

### *3. Group discussion about where to give (40-45 minutes)*

- If you have more than 15 participants, consider splitting into sub-groups of 5-10 people for the discussion period (you can get people to move group once).
- Discussion topics could include:
  - Are we more obligated to help some people than others? What factors (e.g. geography, scope of need, ease of helping) play into these obligations?
  - How strong is the evidence for the good done by each charity per dollar donated?
  - Which goals seem most important with donating to charities?
  - What charity metric(s) should donors consider?
  - How should you balance helping beneficiaries in targeted ways against letting them choose themselves?

### *4. Voting (5 minutes)*

- Voting is typically done via private paper ballots, where the winner wins all. However, you can also split the donation amongst the charities by their proportion of the votes.

### *5. Recap (10 minutes)*

- Announce results of the voting
- Brief group discussion about what people learned from the experience
- Circulate [signup sheet](#) for The Life You Can Save and the Intentional Insights newsletters so that participants can stay informed about great giving opportunities and science-based strategies to achieve their goals. Please take a photo of the sheet and email it to [info@IntentionalInsights.org](mailto:info@IntentionalInsights.org) and [GivingGames@thelifeyoucansave.org](mailto:GivingGames@thelifeyoucansave.org).
- Brief discussion about [charitable pledges](#) for those who want to do more

Please fill out a [post-game report card](#) afterwards so that The Life You Can Save can make donation to your voted charities. You will receive a confirmation of your donations within a few weeks, and you're free to share this to your group.

## Planning

This activity can be put together fairly quickly, although we encourage you to plan it at least a few weeks in advance.

See the tips below:

- Pick 2-3 people to serve as facilitators who will introduce the session and the charities and guide the discussion. For experienced facilitators, feel free to email [GivingGames@thelifeyoucansave.org](mailto:GivingGames@thelifeyoucansave.org).
- Pick a time and place
- Notify the members of your Humanist group, encouraging them to invite friends. Remember, each additional participant adds €10 to the donated amount!
- Give the facilitators time to practice their presentations and review the resources below.
- Arrange a projector / big screen or else paper handouts to present the charity facts.
- Please make sure to print out and pass around the [sign-up sheet](#).
- Having laptops (and Wi-Fi) is helpful for investigating any participant questions that the facilitators are unable to answer.

## Resources

- [General information about Giving Games](#).
- [Tips for facilitating a Giving Game](#).
- [A blog post on Giving Games in secular groups](#).
- [Introductory PowerPoint, as well as slides for each of the three charities](#).
- If you have any questions or would like to talk through your preparations, please email [GivingGames@thelifeyoucansave.org](mailto:GivingGames@thelifeyoucansave.org).
- You can also pose questions to a [group of experienced Giving Game facilitators](#).
- Check out more information about the movement dedicated to using evidence, science, and reason to make the most impact on improving the world, [Effective Altruism](#).