Top 10 Things To Teach About Game Writing

Wendy Despain

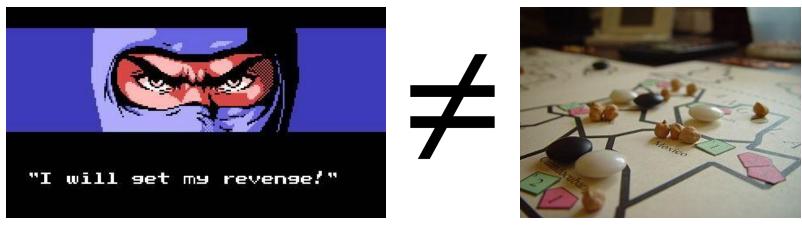
Game Writer and Educator @ Full Sail University

10 The story is not the same thing as the game design.



Many students assume narrative design is the only design.

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09 Story doesn't stand alone.



If the story and the mechanics conflict, the game will feel broken.

Story doesn't stand alone.



VS.



If the story and the mechanics conflict, the game will feel broken.

OS Story has to work within the constraints of code.



Knowing the medium is essential for making narratives that work.

Story has to work within the constraints of code.



VS.



Knowing the medium is essential for making narratives that work.

O7 Collaboration is essential.



Many students imagine writing for games is a solitary job.

Collaboration is essential.



VS.



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Many students imagine writing for games is a solitary job.

Game writers are more script doctor than novelist.



A game's story elements like setting (levels), action (mechanics), and most characters are defined before a game gets a writer.

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and



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05 There is no game canon.





Students don't have a common experience or language for games.

There is no game canon.

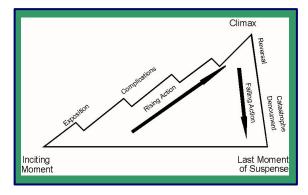






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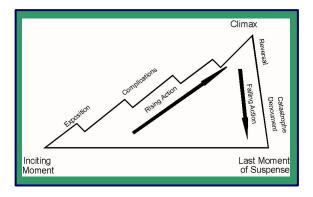
O4 English class concepts like "theme" apply to games.



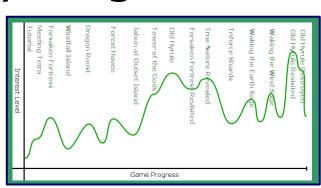
Applying knowledge across disciplines is essential in game development, but doesn't come naturally to today's students.

English class concepts like "theme" apply to games.

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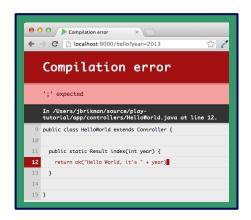


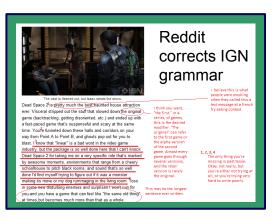


Applying knowledge across disciplines is essential in game development, but doesn't come naturally to today's students.

03

Grammar and spelling are gatekeepers in games.





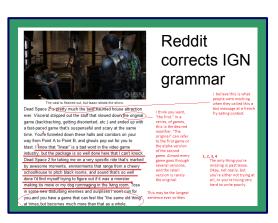
In the game industry, bad grammar can kill a career.

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Grammar and spelling are gatekeepers in games.







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In the game industry, bad grammar can kill a career.

2 Students who struggle most are those who know the most.

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gamer pov

Prevalent misconceptions about the game development process mean *an open mind* is the most essential starting point.

Students who struggle most are those who know the most.



gamer pov



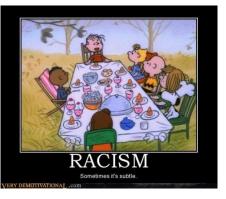
dev pov



Prevalent misconceptions about the game development process mean an open mind is the most essential starting point.

Storytelling in games changes L the world - for better or worse.





Writers are in a position to see the injustices and fight to fix them. Students need to learn how to do this in a team environment.

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- 07. Collaboration is essential.
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- 05. There is no game canon.
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