Why you should be watching esports

*Specific Purpose Statement*: To persuade my audience that esports is a form of entertainment worth watching, especially for fans of traditional sports

*Central Idea*: Sometimes, there’s nothing good on TV to watch. Esports can be a great alternative to regular programming. There’s always something to watch, there’s tons of fan resources, and there’s an entire culture to learn and take part in.

Introduction

1. **Gain attention** – “4 seconds left. NRG need this immediately, they’ve got the kickoff in their favor, Kaydop tries to clear, it is almost- Garrett just as it hits the floor, ViolentPanda puts it a long way, and it's almost there. JSTN keeps it alive! Turbopolsa there, bounces ITS A CORNER NRG still around, JSTN is there for the shot, JSTNNNN, JSTNNNNNNN THIS IS ROCKET LEAGUE THEY DID IT...... THE ROOKIE.. OF.. THE YEAR Ladies and gentlemen, my voice is gone, but my spirit is high, we have overtime”. (VISUAL 1)
2. **Reveal topic** – This is an excerpt from the last game of the grand finals of the 5th Rocket League Championship Series, the premier championship for the hit video game Rocket League. In this speech I am going to try to persuade you to give esports a shot.

1. **Establish credibility and goodwill** – I have grown up with video games in a similar way to how a lot of you grew up with sports. I’ve spent over 775 hours playing Apex Legends, 830 hours on VALORANT, and 2800 hours on Rocket League, and would like to share my love for the highest level of competition these games provide with you.
2. **Preview the body** – In order to lay my speech out in a proper format, I’ll be talking about the Problems with watching traditional sports, the Solution that watching esports provides, and the unique Benefits that esports has compared to traditional sports.

*Connective: I would like to start off by identifying prominent problems associated with traditional sports.*

Body

1. Problem – being an avid sports fan can prove to be difficult, as there are tons of barriers in the way
   1. If you don’t enjoy a certain sport, then there’s no guarantee that you’ll have something to watch year round (VISUAL 2) (Karros, 2009).
   2. Paying to watch all your favorite teams compete can be costly and unintuitive.
   3. Controversies can arise from unclear calls from referees, which can jeopardize a match’s competitive integrity.
   4. A large portion of sports broadcasts are replaced with advertisements.

*Connective: An easy solution to all of these problems lies in esports!*

1. Solution – Esports as a form of entertainment is uniquely positioned to be much more accessible than traditional sports.
   1. The industry is made up of several different games, so there’s almost certainly something for everyone
   2. The esports industry is of a comparable size to Major League Soccer (Campbell, 2019)
   3. The largest tournaments have some of the largest prize pools across both esports and traditional sports. DOTA 2’s premier tournament, The International, had a prize pool of over 40 million in 2021 (Liquipedia, 2023).

*Connective: Esports solve all of the problems associated with traditional sports as previously mentioned*

1. Benefits – [included in connective]
   1. A lot of games only have a one month off-season, so following just two sports gives viewers year-round entertainment. (VISUAL 3) (Liquipedia, 2023)
   2. I have not seen a single esports event cost anything to watch, they’re all usually free on youtube and twitch.
   3. Many games have a religious reverence for competitive integrity, and that combined with a computer’s precision over a referee’s best judgment leads to no room for interpretation on plays.
   4. A benefit of broadcasts being centralized on youtube and twitch means that there’s less advertisements than on normal television. In addition, a simple ad blocker can eliminate ads entirely.
   5. There are tons of high quality resources to follow along with tournaments of any game. My personal favorite is Liquipedia.net, as they have entire wikis dedicated to nearly two dozen games.
   6. esports as a whole has a unique culture that is similar enough to traditional sports while still being different enough to be its own thing
      1. Instead of chants we have copypastas!
      2. Every game has regional rivalries, especially Europe vs North America!
      3. Certain players have achieved such a famous position that they have cult followings, like Faker, Shroud, jstn, ImperialHal, Beaulo, and Ninja

*Connective: Now that we have discussed the benefits of esports, I would like to close out my thoughts.*

Conclusion

1. **About to end speech:** Being a sports fan can be difficult at times, but the medium of esports can scratch a similar itch as traditional sports while being much more convenient to watch.
2. **Reinforce central idea:** Esports is a great alternative to traditional sports that’s only going to grow as time passes. It has a load of quality-of-life improvements compared to its competitors, particularly absolute competitive integrity, a virtual absence of an off-season, and a much cheaper barrier to entry.
3. **Call to action:** If any of that sounds appealing to you, I implore you to download the twitch mobile app and poke around, you might just find yourself a new hobby, a new favorite team, a new favorite game, a new world to take part in!

**References**

Campbell, W., Goss, A., Trottier, K., & Claypool, M. (2019). *Sports Versus Esports – A Comparison of Industry Size, Viewer Friendliness, and Game Competitiveness*. Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Retrieved April 28, 2023, from https://web.cs.wpi.edu/~claypool/papers/sports-esports-21/chapter-excerpt.pdf

Karros, E. (2009, March 31). *Poll: Best time of year sports-wise*. Poll: Best Time of Year Sports-wise. Retrieved April 27, 2023, from http://www.sonsofstevegarvey.com/2008/03/poll-best-time-of-year-sportswise.html

Liquipedia. (2023). Liquipedia. Retrieved April 27, 2023, from https://liquipedia.net/