## Six Week Group Game Development Project

## Individual Project Proposal

### I. Introduction

As a group we have been tasked to develop a game within six weeks, following a brief given to us. As a group we decided to work with brief two which asks us to develop a two player, hyper-paced, synchronous adversarial game either in digital or non-digital format. The primary outcome for the brief is to make the player feel specific emotions, these emotions include frustration, fiero, schadenfreude and raucous laughter. As a group we decided on a non-digital game, the main reason behind this decision is it gives us more time to design, iterate and balance the game, and secondly, we have had positive outcomes from our previous non-digital projects.

In this individual plan I will discuss my self-management style for the six weeks of development. I will present my research on the key emotion we are trying to implement into our game, this includes primary research from comparable games I have played and secondary, research from journal articles, websites and books.

### II. PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

**A. Expected project results and possible risks**

The overall aim of the project is to create a highly polished non-digital game that creates the emotional reaction from the player that the brief asks for.

Over the development process there is always the chance of risks, below is a risk assessment table for the possible outcomes (Appendix A).

The table shows the possible risk associated with the project. The biggest risk is not having enough play testers, without external players we will be unable to determine whether the players feel the emotions we are trying to design, additionally without external feedback we would be unable to polish the game to a high standard. The lowest risk for the project is the tools used, as it’s a non-digital game very little software besides management tools are used.

**B. Individual management of project**

To track and plan my personal contribution to the project, I have created a table below to show the hours and days I plan to dedicate purely to the group project (Appendix B), I have added my other module I am currently undertaking to the table. The plan is subject to change depending on the current state of the game and time frame, as well as unforeseen instances like absent group members. I will be using Trello to set and manage task and clocify to accurately time them. I will also be following the group plan proposed by myself and the rest of the group.

I have also completed a work breakdown structure that clearly lays out the structure of the project, and my estimated time split of each aspect of the project (Appendix C).

### III. Project Research

As discussed previously in the plan I have conducted research into the primary emotions required for the brief, the emotions I looked at were frustration, fiero, Schadenfreude.

**A. Frustration Definition**

The feeling of being annoyed or less confident because you cannot achieve what you want. (Dictionary, 2018).

When researching into frustration I explored the triggers that can cause it, and how it can shape interaction within games. Frustration is often confused as a negative effect for a game because if it’s too frustrating players will be more likely to quit, however games that are considered to be challenging can get the players motivated to continue because of the sense of satisfaction when he or she overcomes a challenging task” (Jennett et al., 2008; Sweetser and Wyeth, 2005).

The triggers for frustration differ from person to person, a mechanics that frustrates one player may not affect another, so it can be subjective. However typically “We assume that people are frustrated when they get less reward than they expected. They then become hostile towards whomever they blame.” (Battigalli, Dufwenberg and Smith, 2018).

My primary research into frustration led me towards a non-digital game called pandemic. In this game the players playing must work together to cure diseases in the game world, the frustration in this game doesn’t come from other players but from the game mechanic themselves. The game makes you feel you are so close to victory until an epidemic card is drawn and the game goes into turmoil and you lose.

Pandemic Frustration

* Epidemic Cards that can spread the disease quickly
* Disease can daisy chain from city to city
* A player can cure a city, next turn the disease could spread there again
* Always seem close to victory

**B. Fiero Definition**

Feeling pleasure or satisfaction at one’s achievements, possessions, connections etc (Dictionary, 2018).

When researching fiero I explored how the player should react when feeling fiero, and the triggers that that produce it. “it’s usually expressed when a player throws their arms over their head and yells!” (Humphrey, 2012). This usually occurs when a difficult boss is defeated, or a player draws a card they need to win the game.

When researching the triggers that can create fiero there was a fine line between making the player too angry with a mechanic that fiero couldn’t be achieved “It is not that anger is required to attain fiero, so much as there must be a perception of struggle” (Karpouzis and Yannakakis, 2016). With this knowledge we must make sure that the mechanics in our game do not make the player to angry, as there is a fine line between making the player frustrated and angry.

A game I played that evoked fiero was the dark souls card game, the normal level monsters in the game are easy to defeat, however the boss fights can be very challenging and take a long time to complete. The last boss of the game was Pontiff Sulyvahn, this boss was very difficult and took more than one attempt. The fight wasn’t too difficult to make us angry, but it was defiantly a struggle.

Dark Souls Card Game

* Boss had multiple effects depending on health
* Boss had different attacks each turn
* If one player dies everyone dies

**C. Schadenfreude Definition**

A feeling of pleasure or satisfaction when something bad happens to someone else (Dictionary, n.d.)

When researching schadenfreude, I discovered that empathy and co-operative games counteracted schadenfreude, as the definition explains schadenfreude requires a player to feel satisfaction when another player get attacked or something negative happens to them. During my research I read an article that discusses an experiment they did on a group of players playing a social game and compared that to adversarial game, this was their findings “our main hypotheses received initial support from the data: playing a prosocial video game in-creased interpersonal empathy and decreased reported schadenfreude” (Greitemeyer, Osswald and Brauer, 2010).

For my primary research into schadenfreude I played a non-digital game called Munchkin, it is a single player game in which you battle monster to level up and loot treasure, you win if you get to level ten before your opponents.

Munchkins

* Curse cards that can be drawn by anyone, cards have different effects that can ruin the players game.
* You can draw monster cards that can be too high level for the player, the other player can refuse to help.
* If you have curse cards in your hand you can target other players.

### IV. Appendix

**Appendix A.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Likelihood | Impact | Combined | Risk |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | No play testers for game |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | Unable to achieve specific emotion |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 Week prototype goal |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | Over scope |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | Tools used in project |

**Appendix B.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Module** | **Hours Spent on Module** |
| **Monday** | Group project | 6-8  30 mins scrum at 12:30 |
| **Tuesday** | Group project | 6-8  30 mins scrum at 12:30 |
| **Wednesday** | Group project | 6-8  30 mins scrum at 12:30 |
| **Thursday** | Dev Management | 6-8 |
| **Friday** | ILP | 8 |

Total hours on each module in a week (subject to change)

* Group project 18- 24 hours a week
* Dev management 6-8 hours a week
* ILP 8 hours a week

**Appendix C.**

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### V. Bibliography

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