**Lesson 05 – Video game Journalism**

**Main objective**

Students will learn about the positive and negative sides of video game journalism, and then use that to debate the ethics and standards of this type of journalism.

**Standards**

* 9-12.IC.3 Impacts of Computing, Ethics
* 9-12.IC.7 Impacts of Computing, Career Paths
* 9-12.DL.2 Digital Literacy, Digital Use

**Lesson Structure/In class exercises**

Aim: What is video game journalism? How does its existence affect the game development process?

Do Now:  
What are some video game review sites that you know of? When you want to know if a game is good or not, who do you trust?  
  
Group discussions:  
Share what you wrote for your Do Now with the class! What is your go-to resource to research a game that interests you?

Instruction:  
  
Students will get a brief overview on the different kinds of game review websites, as well as understanding their purpose in reviewing games for consumers.

Discuss the importance that scores have for games, as well as YouTubers that students might know that are just as important as video game review sites.  
  
Mention some of the controversies that video game journalism/reviews have experienced throughout the years (paid reviews, embargos, score bias, political alignments) , and briefly mention Gamergate, although getting too in-depth into it is a little beyond the scope of the lesson.

Segue into thinking about video game journalism/reviews in the perspective of game developers.

Group discussion:  
Do you appeal to game reviewers when developing your game, and try to attract what you think they will give a good score for? Or do you maintain your artistic freedom?

Time to work on assignment:  
Students get the rest of class (if applicable) to work on their homework assignment, and/or their presentations.

**Resources**<https://www.ign.com/>   
<https://www.metacritic.com/>

**Assignments**

Think of a video game that you really like. Find a review on it online – either an article review on one of the big review sites, or a video review on YouTube. Also, look up the Metacritic score of the game.   
  
Make a post with all your findings. Do you trust what these people have to say about the game? Do you agree with their points – and are there any points that you disagree with? Consider whether or not there may be foul play involved in the review as well, either in the form of a paid review, bias from the author or the website, etc.