

Gabriel Mendez is the person I chose for my third and final interview, being my roommate and my best friend for nearly a decade now. His connection to collecting isn't as in-depth as mine or Alex's so he provides a sort of middle-ground on the subject. The questions asked were nearly identical to the first set, and this was also the case for the third interview.

I started by asking what he collects, and he said he mainly collects video games and merchandise. He also said that he would like to collect manga but would have to wait for when he has more space and money to actually build up his collection in the way he desires. He started collecting around his freshman year of high school, and while his collections aren't massive, he has several bases covered. He has three particular series that he does or wants to collect for. He owns most of the games in the Persona game franchise physically, and in fact prefers to own them physically so they can be a part of his collection. He also collects tons of merchandise for the Love Live anime series, from plushes to figures to even magazines, though most of his collection is focused on a particular character he likes. Finally, he would like to collect the One Piece manga one day. He says one day because the manga has been ongoing for over 25 years, and it would require a ton of money and space.

When asked about his most valuable possession he said it was the game Project Justice for the dreamcast. In fact I was there the day he purchased it, it was over \$100 dollars found at a local retro game store. Despite being very excited on the day of the purchase, and for several months, when asked about if he would ever part ways with it, he said he probably could. His reasoning?

"I probably could considering I could still play the game even if I didn't have it physically"

This primarily stems from the accessibility of video games through emulation and piracy, which is unrelated, but it's still interesting how easily he said he could part with it. Even despite this, he still believes in the value of the item.

"The value after the purchase is how I feel as the moment it's in my hands, I feel like it becomes a lot more important to me"

When asked about the method of acquisition, he said it does, Since finding something in a store is more exciting than simply ordering it online.