

Topic: How video games changed my life

Abstract: Finding deeper meaning in something simple such as a video game in order to be happy and bond with family members as a child. Expanding from that experience and turning it into, not just a hobby, but a passion in order to meet new friends, travel the nation, and become a part of a community.

Key Words: Cousin, Video Games, Community, Passion

More than just a Hobby

There are many aspects that define a person. It can be family members, religion, or even the environment they grew up with. Every detail within that aspect can shape a human being on how they see the world. I on the other hand got my influence through whatever I found entertaining and the deeper meaning of it. Whenever I find myself enjoying something I stop and ask myself, why is it so fun? Sure there are lots of activities I interact with but what was it that made these so memorable and had a lasting impact on me. So much that it shaped the very person I am today. A short answer I could come up with is that there are some things that little kids never grow out of.

A lot of people have heroes growing up. My heroes are the fictional characters I like and my cousin. My cousin is the big brother I never had and we played a lot when I was little. One of the things we played the most was video games. Ever since that video games have taken a huge aspect of my life. A lot of it ties back to my cousin however. The background of my I.D card is of my all-time favorite fictional character, Dante from Devil May Cry. A lot of our natural born lives went into that game and in a sense that characters blended into our personalities. The symbol on the bottom left of my I.D card has to be the most important to me, so much that I have decided that it will be my first tattoo. The game is Final Fantasy X and besides the fact that I have chosen to brand the logo into my skin the origin story of its significance is more or less that

same story for my favorite fictional character. The game was a huge bonding experience for me and my cousin and the game itself brought many memories and moments that left such an impact on my life that essentially help shape the personality I have today. The game had such an amazing soundtrack that I still listen to this day and it lectured in ways that I will probably preach to my kids. From a fun experience to a bonding experience with my cousin, this is my favorite game and defines a lot of who I am today.

The symbol on the bottom right represents a lot of my life today. The game *Marvel vs. Capcom 3* is a fighting game that has spawned a community of its own. When I say community I mean it has its own language and if you meet someone of that community then you're pretty much guaranteed to become friends. What makes this game a huge part of my life is that I compete in it at the professional level. This game has allowed me to meet a lot of people, make a lot of friends, and travel to places I would have never even visited. Since I compete in tournaments I tend to travel all over the state and sometimes the nation just to compete for fun, glory, and prize money. I've travelled to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Rafael, Arizona, and even Chicago. On top of that I've met a lot of people who I consider really good friends. We look out for each other, hang out, and travel to tournaments together. It's great because we all have the same enthusiasm and share a passion that I don't have with my other friends.

In an overall sense video games are what define me and everything on my I.D card reflects that. It has strengthened bonds with my family, influence me as a person, and created a hobby that allows me to be a part of a community where everyone gets along. A lot of people may find video games stupid but when you take it to the level I have then I must beg to differ. How many people can say that they have made over a thousand dollars and traveled the nation

by playing a video game? I always try to put a lot of effort in things that I enjoy because if I do then I'll find deeper meaning in it. If I do that then I can see a lot of happiness in my future.