Game Design: Become a Game Reviewer

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4-H Technology & Design Project | https://aces.nmsu.edu/4h/techanddesign

BE BOLD. Shape the Future.

What we'll do today…

- Talk about what developers look for when reviewing games
- Play and review a game
- Discuss your reviews with each other

Today, you'll need:

- Web Browser
- Paper
- Writing instrument, like pencil, marker, or pen

Let’s Learn

Before reviewing

- **Audience:** Who is this game made for?
- **Context:** Where is this game meant to be played?
- **Goal:** Why was this game made?
- **Content:** Is this game about a subject area?

Before reviewing

- **Audience:** Who is this game made for? *Middle school students*
- **Context:** Where is this game meant to be played? *Classrooms*
- **Goal:** Why was this game made? *Make students comfortable with building expressions*
- **Content:** Is this game about a subject area? *Math*

Game Review

- **Real-world application:** Can the player use what they learned from playing the game in places outside the game?
- **Graphics/Art:** Do the art or graphics fit the target audience? Does the art or graphics make gameplay easier for the player? Is the art style consistent or stay the same?
- **Repeatability:** Would the player want to come back to playing the game? Why?

Game Review

- **Difficulty Level:** Is it too hard for the audience? Is it too easy for the audience?
- **Easy to Use:** Can you figure out what to do? Can you figure out how to get to the home screen, settings, or levels? Do the icons do what you think they do?
- **Player Choice:** Can the player change settings? Can players select levels? Do players have enough choice in the game or should they have more choices?

Game Review

Real world world application	Graphics/Art	Repeatability	Difficulty Level	Easy to Use	Player Choice

Audience	Context	Goal	Content

Game Review

Real world world application	Graphics/Art	Repeatability	Difficulty Level	Easy to Use	Player Choice

Let's Review Some Games

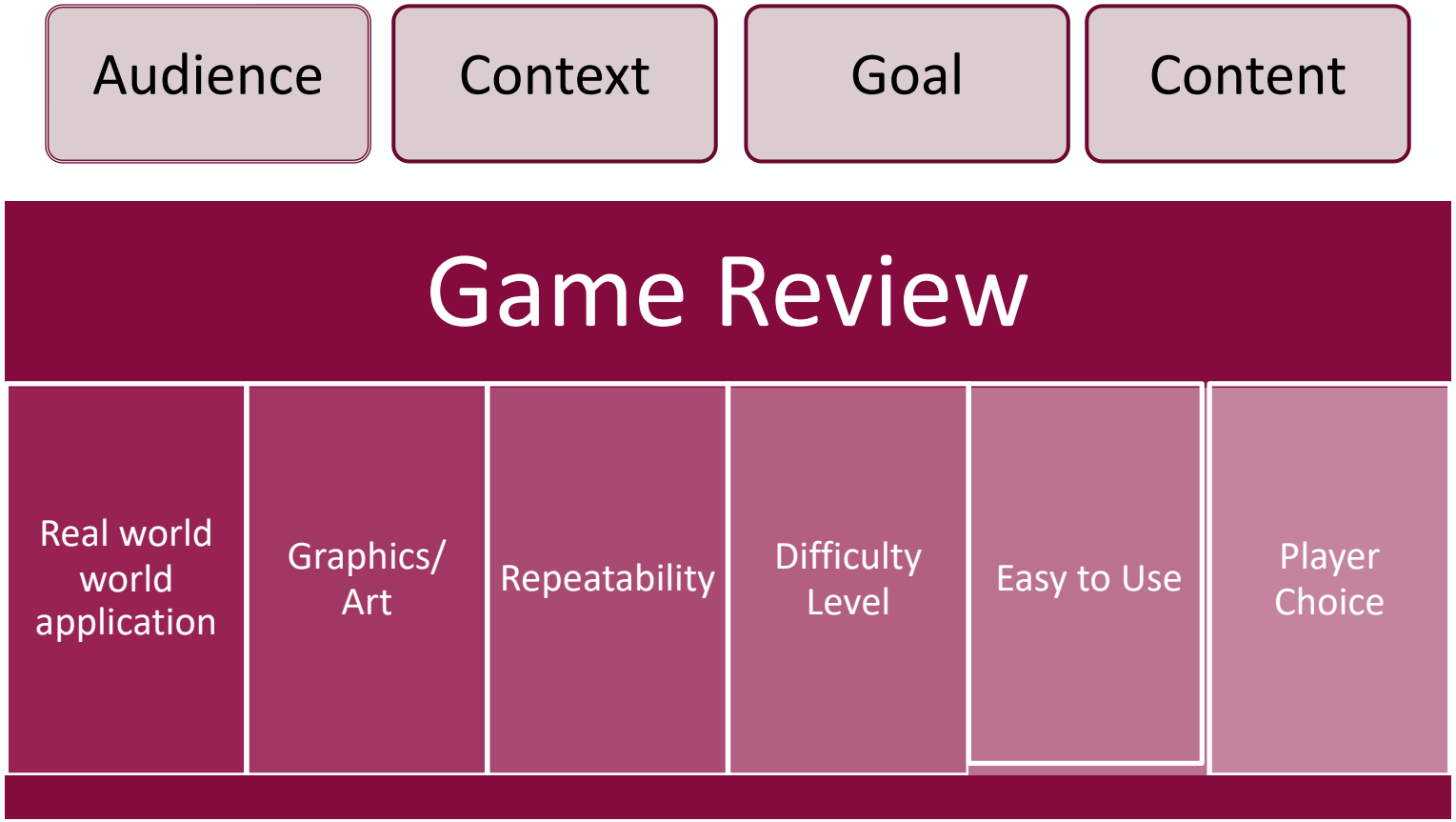
PLAY…REVIEW…DISCUSS

List of Math Games

- Elementary Grade Levels - Addition Blocks: http://www.additionblocksgame.com/AdditionBlocksGame/
- Elementary & Middle Grade Levels - Monster School Bus: https://mathsnacks.com/monster-school-bus.html
- Middle School Grade Levels – Satisfraction: https://www.brainpop.com/games/satisfraction/
- High School Grade Levels – Project T.R.I.G.: https://www.brainpop.com/games/projecttrig/ or https://www.mathplayground.com/ProjectTRIG/index.html

Work with me if you'd like

- Choose one game from the list
- Play the game
- Select one to six categories to review the game
- Write your review
- If you have an idea for what can be done differently or added, write that as well.



Let’s Share

IF YOU WANT TO, SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE SO FAR

Project Ideas

Presentation for Expo

- Choose 3 games
  - Similar: audience, context, goal and content area
- Select categories to review each games with a written description
- Maybe add a point system to each category
- You may also include any suggested changes or additions and the reason for those changes or additions

Later this year, we'll host an Online Digital Expo:

Consider exhibiting one of your projects there!

Where can you find more games?

- Learning Games Lab: http://learninggameslab.org/
- BrainPop GameUp: https://www.brainpop.com/games/

Any other questions?

Email me: aarmstr0@nmsu.edu

Give us feedback

bit.ly/3a5KHyI