

What Makes a Game Fun? (Student)

Discussion:

You'll be spending a lot of time in this course thinking about and designing games. One of the most important questions that you'll need to consider as you start developing is, "What makes a game fun?"

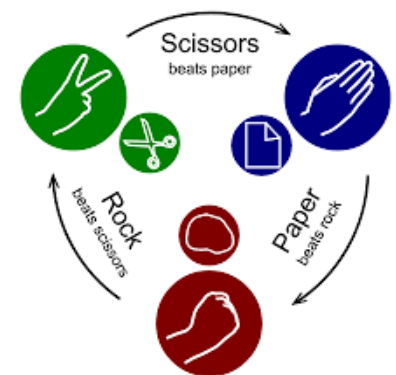
There are a lot of fun games out there, but there are also a lot of games that aren't all that fun. You'll learn later in this course a few commonly accepted elements that most good games have, but it's important that you have time to think about a couple of games yourself first.

Activity #1:

Grab a partner and play the game Rock - Paper - Scissors. As a reminder, to play you will count to 3 and each person shows one of the three object symbols. The image on the right shows which object wins, while two of the same objects result in a tie. The person who wins 2 rounds out of 3 is the winner.

After you play a couple of games, answer the following questions:

- 1) Is this game fun? If so, explain why; if not, explain why not. In your answers try to drill down to the specifics of why or why not you found it fun.



- 2) If you thought the game was fun, how could you change it so that it is no longer fun? Why is this change making it less fun?

If you thought the game was not fun, how could you change it so that is fun? Why is this change making it more fun?

Activity #2:

Grab a new partner and challenge them to Tic - Tac - Toe. One person is an "X" and the other is an "O". Take turns choosing an empty space until one person gets three symbols in a row. The game is a tie if no one gets three symbols in a row.

After you play a few games, answer the following questions:

- 1) Is this game fun? If so, explain why; if not, explain why not. In your answers try to drill down to the specifics of why or why not you found it fun.

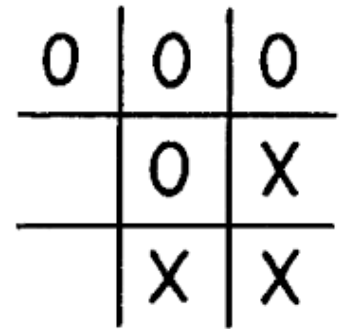


Image courtesy of Wikimedia.org

- 2) If you thought the game was fun, how could you change it so that it is no longer fun? Why is this change making it less fun?

If you thought the game was not fun, how could you change it so that is fun? Why is this change making it more fun?