

Part 1: Vignette

A big part of me is my culture as a gamer. I was introduced to gaming when I was five years old when my mom had pneumonia. It was hard for her to take care of me during that time so she let me play games on her computer. The first game I played was Wizard101 by Kingsisle and I found it through an advertisement. As the name of the game suggests, it is about wizards. At the beginning of the game you had to spin for what school you were assigned to. The schools were The School of Fire, The School of Ice, The School of Myth, The School of Storm, The School of Life, The School of Death, and The School of Balance. I wanted to get The School of Storm but I got The School of Life. This school was the school known with healing spells but it did have attack spells. It has been awhile since I have played the game but it was a turn based game. You would travel to different worlds and unlock new spells and gear after you reached a certain level. I got stuck on a world at level 60 or 70 something and gave up. I am not sure what the maximum level is right now since it has gotten more updates over the years. Wizard 101 introduced me to the amazing world of gaming and since then, some of my favorite games I have played are Pirate101, Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare, Overwatch, Minecraft, Roblox, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege, Rocket League, and Roblox.

In the past few years, the gaming community has grown so much. There are even people who have it as a job because of Esports and platforms such as Youtube and Twitch. One of the first people that I started to watch play video games was a Youtuber called ZackScottGames. They were what introduced me to the game Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare. My mom got me my first Xbox on my 8th birthday. It was an Xbox 360 and I was then able to actually play Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare instead of just watching it. I still have the Xbox 360 but I don't use it anymore since I upgraded to the Xbox One.

I have many reasons for loving playing video games. The first reason is that it is fun. It is a super enjoyable hobby and even more fun with friends. The second reason is that playing games has gotten me more friends. Most of my friends that I play with are people I know in real life but it has made me know the people better. The final reason is that it is an escape from reality. I have been in a lot of situations that aren't great and the world isn't doing well especially over the past year but playing games makes me feel better. Obviously there are bad people in every community but there are a lot of good people in the gaming community. Gaming has become one of my main sources of entertainment and I am happy to be a part of the community.