

To: Professor Arnowitz
From: Jake Blakely
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Re: Anti-Censorship of Video Games

The IGDA believes that the importance and impact of their creative endeavors will be corrupted if there is strict censorship of certain video games. This group argues how video games are becoming the leading art form of the technological age and how through video games, developers impart their visions of fantastical worlds, characters and adventures, which often include commentary on the state of the human condition, onto the audience. They believe that if even one part of any game is censored then the entire game is corrupted and the entire experience is ruined for the gamer.

Many people have often asked, "How can some video games that depict characters having sex be considered art?" or "How can a video game where you kill innocent people or even police officers be considered an art form?" These are all good questions if you look at the games individually, however, if you look at art through the ages it has usually shown real people committing acts of real violence on one another. If we went around and censored every piece of art that depicted violence or sex or just offended someone, great pieces of history such as Michelangelo's David or the photo of General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing a Viet Cong prisoner on the streets of Saigon, would lose their true meanings.

The IGDA isn't unreasonable, they fully support content ratings and they also believe that store employees should take partial responsibility and follow these ratings. However, they do believe that video games should be protected under the freedom of expression and should not be censored or regulated in extreme ways. In my own opinion, I believe that no matter what form of expression you choose to partake in you're probably going to make someone angry. In a way though that is a good thing, because there is no one in this world everyone likes and if you're expressing yourself in a way for everyone to see and no one gets mad you either aren't being honest or everyone just stopped caring and who wants to live in a world like that?