

# Game Design Patterns sketch notes

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## GAME DESIGN PATTERNS for BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

"games are a tool to bring happiness to the world"

- Daniel Cook  
lost garden & Spryfox

small number of deep friendships ⇒ ☺  
large number of shallow friendships = ☹

can games lead to friendships?  
what is a good framework?

### Laws for friends:

proximity  
similarity  
reciprocity  
disclosure

similarity  
people make friends w/ those like them  
↳ agar.io

tools:

- put people in factions
- shared goals
- shared experiences

not super effective

however, positive fictional identities do not reference real world

### reciprocity

more offer → positive response

each interaction → trust



shared social norms

friendships are  $\lll$

people are wired to reciprocate

non zero sum guild

roles

### proximity

- social distance
- serendipitous interactions
- repeat interactions
- density



- logistics - why not play w/ old friends?  
hard for friendships to transfer [contexts]  
↳ create env for new friendships

### how to MAXIMIZE proximity?

1. persistent identity → + repeat encounters
2. events → + density
3. daily incentives → + repeat encounters + density
4. offline communities → + repeat encounters

### anti-patterns

- anonymous players
- huge empty space
- many gameplay mods
- separating people by skill
- matches → biggest problem

instead use rooms + elasticity

### disclosure

vulnerability → max. level of trust

safe space + safe games

there are levels of friendship, want to avoid premature disclosure

make games ⇒ make friends