

CH.1 THE PROBLEM W/ ZINESTARS:

WHAT'S WRONG W/ MAINSTREAM GAMING INDUSTRY:

Homogeneity

games cater to narrow demographic - white male protagonists

exclusionary to people who don't fit the mold!

GATEKEEPING IN GAMING:

I'm the true gamer

and

in games deter people as well.

BUT IN COMES INDIE GAMES:

!!BOO MAINSTREAM INDUSTRY!!

response to limitations - challenge to norms.

experiment w/ diff genres, gameplay mechanics, art styles.

DIY GAME CREATION:

development tools become more ACCESSIBLE which leads to

DEMOCRATIZATION of game dev tools

and Indie Creators!

No coding background needed!

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CREATION:

Express IDENTITY & STORIES

Share experiences interactively. self-expression

Gives rise platform for marginalized communities!

INCLUSIVITY AND...
INDIE GAMES ARE AT THE Forefront of promoting...
DIVERSITY IN GAMES

ZINESTER ETHOS:

We prioritize personal expression, experimentation, individual creativity

we are anti-commercialism

CH 7: YOU FOUND A SECRET AREA!

SIGNIFICANCE OF SECRETS.

EMOTIONAL impact

curiosity / excitement

motivated to explore, discover hidden elements.

Explore every nook + cranny

increases player engagement

gives player sense of agency and mastery

HOW TO DESIGN SECRETS

incorporate MYSTERY


- hidden paths
- concealed items
- cryptic clues



Environmental Storytelling: uncover through discovery.

roles of secrets in Player Communities

 community building!!

 online forums and
communities

secrets make people think

outside the
