

Name of the game is competition

He is the competitor that never glows, the winner that never boasts, the victor that never swaggers. Though the challenger can never really win, he is not a hustler. Both children and adults give their money to him, making him one of the biggest money makers in the world. Who is he? The video game.

The popularity of these games is found not only in their flashing lights, fancy noises, intricate graphics, and multitudes of buttons and levers. It is found also in their variety, ingenuity, and especially in the competitive challenge they represent.

Competition is very important in our society. Though we often decry the pressure that competition brings, we also know that competition is a spur to achievement. Children, too, feel this need to compete. It can have the positive benefits of refining their abilities, developing their skills, and helping them to become better individuals. It can also lead to self-doubt, and the feeling that the only worthwhile activity is one in which there is a winner.

VIDEO GAMES satisfy the need to compete without the accompanying risk to self-image. Unlike losing to a living competitor, there is no loss of esteem to a machine. A non-human competitor is no threat. In fact, the machine is not the competitor at all. The player knows from the start that the machine is unbeatable. So the player is actually engaged in an effort to outdo his last performance and perfect his skill.



Pat Bordman

Video gaming is really solitary with a companion, the machine, and on-lookers. The success of one player does not diminish that of another. It is possible for an entire family to play the same game, each at his own level, and root for each other's success.

Visit an arcade to see both the fun and the competition. A good one to visit on a trip to downtown Detroit is at the Renaissance Center.



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