

MUSHing Towards Gomorrah: Are Multi-User Shared Hallucinations an Online Alternative to Video Games?

Abstract: After an in-depth look at the widespread criticism surrounding video games, this preliminary participant observation examines Multi-User Shared Hallucinations (MUSHes) as an alternative to the much-criticized conventional video game genre. In comparing the two entertainment options, some advantages of roleplaying MUSHes are observed, including development of reading and writing skills, encouragement of creativity, and variety of social interaction. However, the problem of potential addiction is introduced as a serious drawback. Viewed in sum, it is difficult to weigh advantages versus disadvantages to say whether MUSHing is a productive activity to be recommended to all potential users.

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