

## **This I Believe**

This pandemic has, as we all know, now been around for over a year now, and like many others I had something to help me through this peculiar time in all of our lives, this is what this essay is dedicated to.

In this essay I will tell you, how videogames and online chatting services like discord, helped me through the lockdown and home-schooling, by keeping me motivated and positive, as well as preventing the only thing that really made this time hard for me, this being the loneliness, having nobody to talk to apart from family members.

In my opinion, videogames make it possible for friends to properly remain in contact even during times like these, as well as actually doing all kinds of things together, both things you could do in real life and things that would be completely impossible to experience in real life. Videogames make it possible to have endless amounts of fun, by the sheer amount of content they present you with, some even giving you an escape from reality into a virtual world with almost limitless possibilities, this is especially relevant now, since you cannot do a lot of things you would normally be able to do, because of the dilemma the world is currently in. On top of that, there is, in most games, the possibility to play with your friends in multiplayer making the whole thing even more enjoyable and, as mentioned before making it incredibly easy to have endless amounts of fun with your friends online.

Chatting services, like discord, helped me a great deal with staying in contact with my friends, and talking with them as well. I have spent countless hours talking to friends or just chatting with them online, and it never gets old, because even in these quite bland times there is always something to talk about, be it politics, the pandemic or personal affairs. Talking to friends helps a lot to keep motivated and positive, especially since they are people you are or should be able to talk to about everything, even things you might not even tell your family about, thus creating a place where you can complain about annoyances in daily life and cool down when angry at something, since you can talk about it.

The combination of these two things made my lockdown experience a lot more bearable, because I always had a place to socialise and have fun with my friends after doing all my work. It was especially helpful, to just turn on my laptop or playstation after very stressful

and difficult days. This was what made my days fun and worth getting out of bed in the morning for.

In conclusion I found that videogames and chatting services, such as discord, helped me deal with stress and exhaustion, as well keeping me motivated and positive, because I was able to Have a lot of fun, as well as socialise with my friends, on top of that it prevented me from becoming lonely as there was never a complete absence of friends for me.