



# Careers in Video Game Development

Ellen Beeman



## Who am I?

Ellen Beeman

20+ year video game designer/producer

50+ game projects

Some of the companies I've worked with: Microsoft, Disney, Warner, Marvel, etc.





I co-teach "sophomore game projects class"

This class is the first time that art, design, programming, and sound design students are working together

These are two semester projects

I primarily work with the design and programming students



## What goes into a video game?

Answer: a lot of hard work!

- Art
- Game design
- Programming
- Sound design
- Testing

#### Game Art

The art creation process for video games is very similar to what's used in film and television

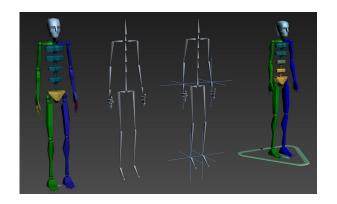
- Character Design
- Character Modeling
- Animation
- Environments and props
- Visual effects



Art by AD Taeza, DigiPen BFA student



Art by Megan Smith, DigiPen MFA student





Animation by Sam Beeman, DigiPen BFA student



Art by Juna Weng, DigiPen MFA student



"SubRay" - DigiPen sophomore team game

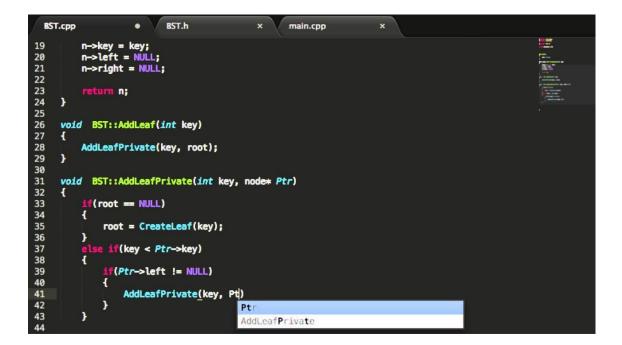
# Game Design





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#### Programming



#### Programmer or Designer?



## Sound Design

Compose music for games

Create sound effects

Audio Engineering

### Testing

Tremendously important part of the process

"You don't know if something actually works until someone else plays it!"

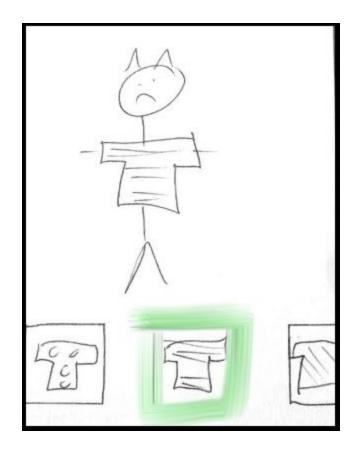
# Types of Testing

Focus groups

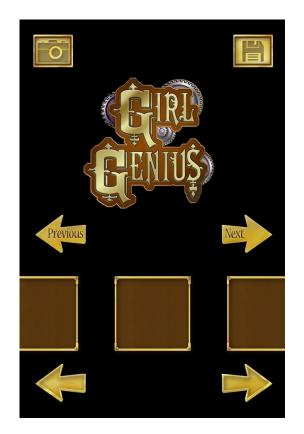
1:1 usability (observational testing)

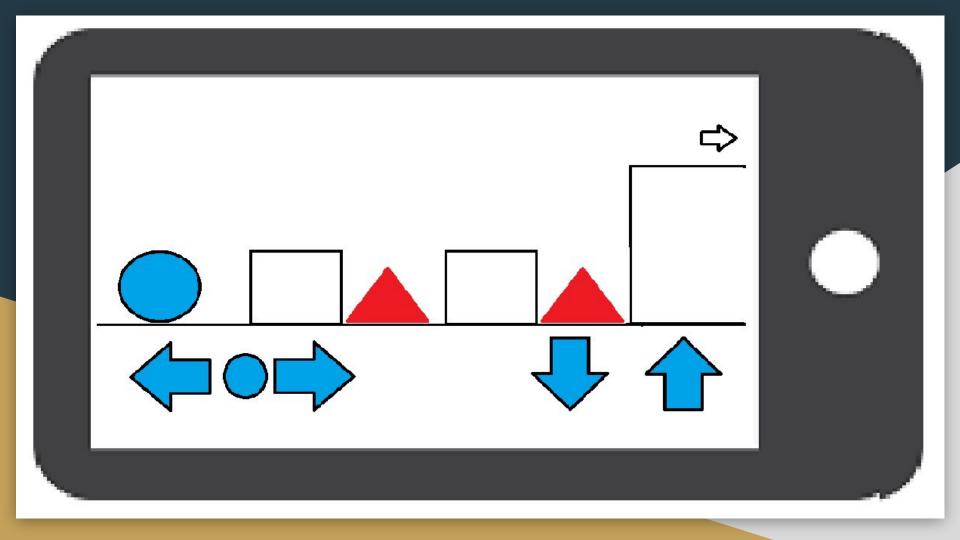
Surveys

Let's talk about observational testing...









#### You can run a playtest

Find a game you already know well

Find someone who's never played it before!

Observe and write notes as they play the game

Do they understand the requirements of the game?

Are they having trouble at any specific point in the game?

Ask questions but don't answer them!

# Resources for you to start making your own games

Make a (small) game with a game engine like Game Maker or Unity: lots of tutorials online!

Try programming! Khan Academy, Code Monkey, many other free sites

Art tutorials on Youtube, Udemy, and other sites

Online summer programs for middle grade and high school students in art, design, programming, and sound design at DigiPen Academy

#### Any Questions?

# Contact Ellen Beeman at Ellen.Beeman@DigiPen.edu