

Writing A Video Game Script

Brendan Doms

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My Background

- Written scripts for 5 short films
- Video game blogger
- OSS in video game programming

Goals

- Write a (short) video game script
- Discover what is different about writing for this medium than others
- Create something meaningful in the process

Genre

- Initially thought of a role playing game
 - A lot of dialogue
 - Story driven
 - Many characters
 - High story to action ratio
- After brainstorming, decided on third person action game

Grand Theft Auto



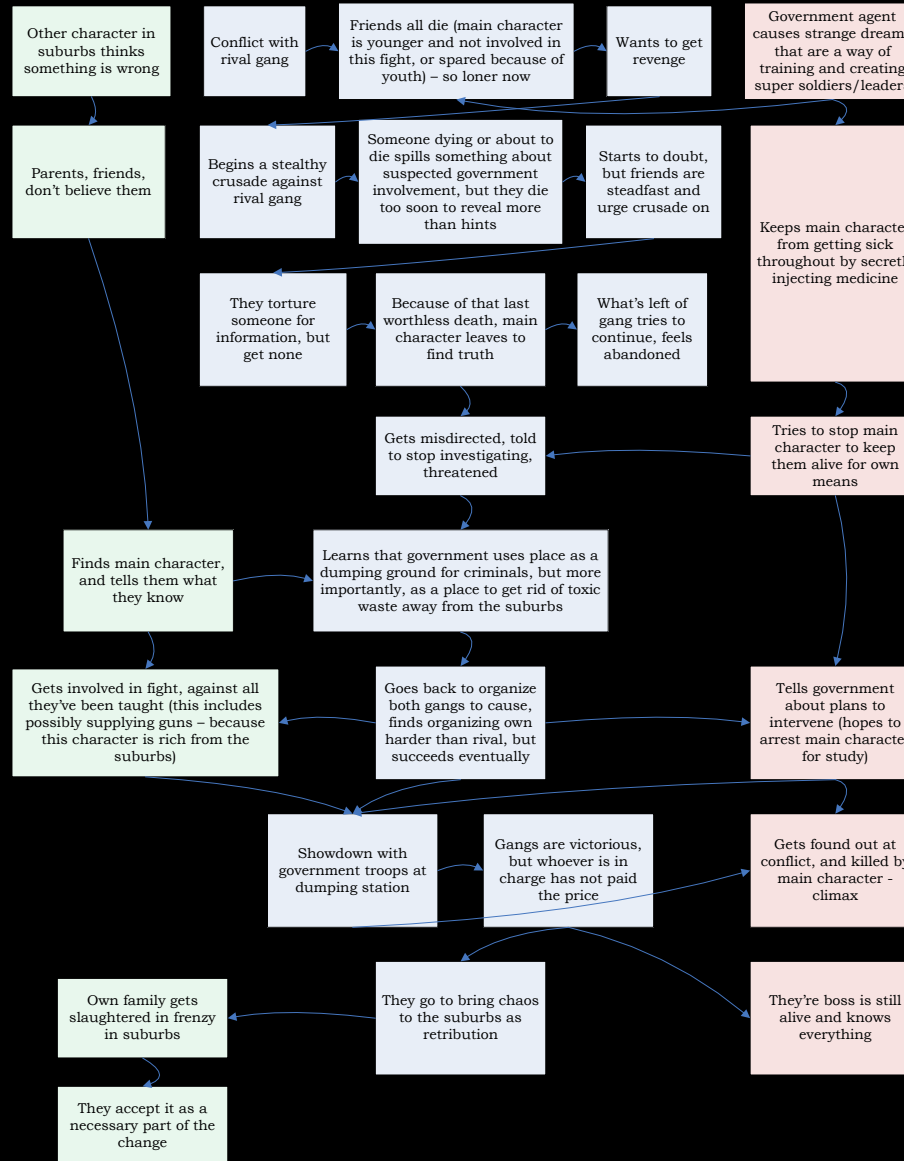
Metal Gear Solid



Splinter Cell



Process – Visual Outline



Process – Text Outline

- **Act 3: The Return**
- **Scene 1: Gathering Forces**
- **MISSION 9**
 - Zari returns to organize both gangs against the government (her own gang proves harder to convince). She sneaks back in using stealth so that the government doesn't know she's there.
 - Hadar joins her, despite having been taught his whole life that violence is terrible and never the answer. This could possibly include financial backing or supplying guns.
- **CUTSCENE**
 - Ildris sees Zari gathering forces, and despite wanting to keep her alive for his own purposes, tells the government about it so that they are more prepared and won't be taken by surprise.
- **MISSION 10**
 - A series of progressively harder one on one battles occur between Zari and her previous friends. She doesn't kill anyone, only defeating them to prove her prowess.

Discoveries

- Writing for interaction is difficult
- Many considerations that parallel movies
 - Weapons → Props
 - Levels → Sets
 - NPC's → Extras

Accomplishments

- Wrote a complete script
- A learned some formal language for talking about video game scripts
- Created something meaningful

Script Analysis

- What does it actually say?
- What questions does it raise?
- How does it relate to modern culture and society?

Story Overview

- Dystopian world, complete with a corrupt government, poverty, and crime
- Except all of the poverty and crime are in one place
- Gang warfare causes one young girl to go on a crusade
- She discovers that the voting public (who live in suburbia) is responsible for putting all criminals, poor, and sick in one place
- She leads all the children in a rebellion against the government, and then suburbia

Questions Raised

- Does violence solve problems?
- What about kids and violence?

Modern Society

- Names and places are all Middle-Eastern
- Major theme: societal scapegoats

Questions?