

## Engaged Citizenship | TEAMWORK

# THOMAS WAS ALONE: PLAYER IMPACT GUIDE

Age 10+ | 1+ Hours

"...*Thomas Was Alone* takes a simplistic world inhabited by two-dimensional geometric shapes and creates meaning out of it. What starts as a red rectangle jumping across small gaps is slowly built into a stirring metaphor for the human condition."

--Philip Kollar, Reviews Editor, Polygon



### THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Teamwork

*Thomas Was Alone* is a 2D puzzle platformer game about AI programs who have suddenly gone rogue. In this game each rectangle gains a personality and they must help each other to reach portals at the end of each level. This game focuses on the idea of teamwork: working with one or more individuals with different strengths and weaknesses to achieve some goal. For more information, visit:

<http://bit.ly/1kfHEWt>

<p><b>WHY USE THIS GUIDE?</b></p>	<p>In this guide, we invite you to think about <i>Thomas Was Alone</i> as an example of teamwork and what different individuals bring to a situation. Why is teamwork important? How does working with others affect the process and outcome of a goal?</p> <p><i>Answer the questions below and add up your points when you are finished!</i></p>
<p><b>GAME BASICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play through a couple levels. What are the main controls of the game? [+1]</li> <li>• Complete all of the chapter 0 levels and go onto the chapter 1 levels. What is added to the game? [+1]</li> <li>• Pay attention to the rectangles and the puzzles. As you continue through the levels, how do things change? [+2]</li> <li>• Make it to the chapter 2 levels. What skills do the rectangles have that are different from each other? [+2]</li> </ul>
<p><b>THEME INSIGHTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did you ever try to complete a level using only one rectangle when you had multiple? What kept you from completing the level? [+1]</li> <li>• What are the different skills that each rectangles bring to the team? [+1]</li> <li>• In what ways do the other rectangles' skills help you complete the puzzles? Can you complete the puzzles without these additional skills? [+2]</li> <li>• Each rectangle has a different way of viewing the world, but does this change that they need each other to complete a level? Why or why not? [+3]</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORLD CONNECTIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What qualities and skills are important for teamwork in the real world? [+1]</li> <li>• Where do you use teamwork the most? [+1]</li> <li>• Do you believe every person has a unique skill to bring to the table? What different skills do you see in your friends? [+2]</li> <li>• Do you believe that teamwork can only take place among friends? What are the benefits of working with people who are not your friend? [+3]</li> </ul>

**Bonus Challenge:** Play *Thomas Was Alone* and try to get through more than half of the game. Make a video about how you solved the puzzles in various ways using the teamwork of the characters differently. Explain your thoughts on the results. Share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact>.