

Engaged Citizenship | Choice and Consequence

HEAVY RAIN: PLAYER IMPACT GUIDE

High School + | 2+ hours

"I wanted to find a way to allow the player to become the actor, codirector, and cowriter of this experience. I created the context, but at the end of the day, I allowed the player to tell the story through gameplay."

-- David Cage, Writer and Director, Quantic Dream



ABOUT HEAVY RAIN:

Heavy Rain puts the player in control of four characters, each with a singular goal: to discover the identity of a child kidnapper known only as the "Origami Killer." While each character has their own purposes and preferred methods for accomplishing this goal, their paths will cross in surprising and consequential ways throughout the story, as the search for the mysterious criminal unveils shocking revelations. With the player in control, each decision has the potential to transform the plot's progression and ultimately, the fate of each of the characters pulled into this mystery. For more information, visit: <http://www.quanticroad.com/en/#!/en/category/heavy-rain>

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Choice and Consequence

In *Heavy Rain*, the player explores the mystery surrounding a series of child abductions and murders by an individual known as the "Origami Killer." The player alternates control between one of four characters, who are swept into the mystery in different ways but share the same goal of uncovering the identity of the killer before it is too late. As the characters, players make choices that impact the plot in serious ways, and those consequences add up to decide the story's final outcome. A key focus of the game is the connection between *choice* and *consequence*, and the ways that even seemingly mundane choices can have a major impact on the world around us. Success in the game depends on the ability to empathize, envision consequences, and make quick decisions when the stakes are high. *Heavy Rain* is a powerful reminder that all choices, no matter how small, can lead to meaningful consequences.

<p>WHY USE THIS GUIDE?</p>	<p>In this guide, we invite you to think about the connection between choice and consequence, and how <i>Heavy Rain</i> allows you to practice this critical life understanding. How do the ideas of choice and consequence apply to our daily lives? In what ways can our personal life choices affect our futures, as well as the lives of those around us?</p> <p><i>Answer the questions below and record your answers on a separate sheet of paper.</i></p>
<p>GAME BASICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play through the first scene of the game as Ethan Mars. Do you think any of the choices you made in this scene will have meaningful consequences later on? If so, which? • Play through the story until two of your player-controlled characters run into each other. How does knowing that you will take on role of both characters impact your decisions in this scene? • Replay a scene in which your choices impacted a later point in the story. How did the story change as a result of your choices? Which "version" of the story better furthered your progress?
<p>THEME INSIGHTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of the game involve engaging in seemingly mundane activities, like finding a teddy bear for your son, or changing your clothes. Why do you think the game's developers chose to include these scenes? • As you played through the game, did you find your decisions being influenced by the character and personality traits of those you interacted with? Why or why not? • Did you make decisions in the game based on your own personality? Why or why not?
<p>WORLD CONNECTIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At points in <i>Heavy Rain</i>, sometimes well-intentioned choices seemed to have negative consequences. What examples have you seen of this in your own life? • What allows a game like <i>Heavy Rain</i> to become a useful tool for people to learn about choice and consequence? • Imagine (or try) a play through without giving careful thought to the consequences of your choices. What happens? Why is the ability to envision consequences so important in real life?

Bonus Challenge: Record a 2-5 minute video sharing your thoughts on the experience of playing *Heavy Rain* and upload it to YouTube. Share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact>.