

Laura Haning

Rhet 105

February 28, 2006

Interview

Me=M

Subject One = S1

Subject Two = S2

Me=What are the all the different modes and game you can play within Halo?

S1- Do you want me to take this one or do you want to take this one?

S2- I'll take this one. Alright. Halo 2 offers a variety of games to play for X-Box Live. They offer games you can play by yourself, like there's head to head, one on one. You can play, uh, two v. two, you can also play 8 v. 8. That's the maximum you can play in one game. It's called big team battle. You can play up to 16 players in one game at one time and that is big team battle. And you can do 6 v. 6, and uh they also have something called clans, you can join up in a clan or a group and you can all play together and try to increase your ranking.

M- and that is all online, right?

S2- yeah this is all on x-box live. Within some of these games are different types of games you can play. There's games like capture the flag where obviously there's a flag and you have to capture it. There's also assault where one team starts with a bomb and you have to go into their base and plant it and arm it and blow it up, and then you get points for that.

S1- King of the hill is another game. Then there's just regular team slayer which is just how many people you can kill.

Me- and that's the game you play the most often?

S1- Yea that's the most common game played. Most popular.

Me- and that's the one you play most?

S1-Everyone. The whole world plays that the most

S2- Get the most kills. First team to get 50 kills

S1- And then there's offline and that's what you don't have to be connected to the internet for and that's called campaign

Me- and no one does that?

S1- people do that basically beat it one or twice and then it gets boring because you wanna play people that are good because the computer isn't very good

S2- it's more competitive online. You beat the computer easy.

Me- and tell me why else it is you guys like online so much. You trash talk and all.

S2- I guess it's like a really competitive thing. I don't know. It's something you can easily do in the comfort of you dorm.

S1- I don't know why we play it so much

S2- Hahaha, it's actually kind of weird now that I start to think about it.

S1- It's fun to kill people, talk trash.

Me- talk trash to the 12 year olds.

S1- yea, call them gay and jew

S2- It's definitely a fun thing to do. It was just such a groundbreaking game when it came out. It added so much more to first person shooter games, like there's destructable environment. They added vehicle combat. They add ya know, there's just so many elements to the game that they added, and the graphics are just unreal, but that's just how addicting it was. [Subject One] wouldn't agree but the campaign mode actually does have a really good story line.

S1- That's below me, but I don't even watch the story line.

Me- and do you like to play like when you're playing the team slayer...is that what you have been playing earlier? Do you like to play with someone better than just by yourself so then you can communicate?

S1- Right, and then there's different types online. There's ranked and then there's unranked and we mostly play ranked and I think that's also why we play it so much. You like have a ranking to get better and get bragging rights.

Me- So what makes you want to play? What's the addicting factor that continues to draw you back to play for hours and hours instead of doing homework or other things til 4 in the morning? How many hours do you think you play a day on average?

S1- I'll get you some stats. I'll get you some stats.

S2- Yeah I can give you how many games we have played. I can give you how many games [Subject Three] has played.

M- Ok, but about how many hours on average?

S2- How many hours per day? It varies. It varies. Uh, on a day when I have like for me, on a day when you have about 2 to 3 hours of homework that's kind of a lot. I'll lay like two hours of Halo.

Me- Today you've played like 3 or 4?

S2- Haha, no I haven't. I haven't. I was actually doing some homework. You didn't catch me earlier. But I played an hour and a half when I got out of class and now I've been playing for an hour so I've played about 2 and a half hours.

S1- When you're playing it goes so fast.

S2- It does

S1- The time just flies by.

S2- You're just playing forever. It kills so much time. And sometimes you get down and you're just like "why did I just do that?"

S1- I play the most games on Monday. I don't know why.

S2- It's cause you take Mondays off

S1- Yeah

S2- [Subject One] takes off Mondays and Wednesdays. That's a good thing to note.

S1- Not to play Halo though.

S2- Yeah you wake up at 3. Stays up til 4am, 5am playing Halo, wakes up at 3 in the afternoon.

S1- No idea why I do it.

Me- and do you play anything other than Halo? Do you even have any games other than Halo?

S2- Yes, two games. He plays Madden

S1- I only personally own Halo and the x-box and then I got another game like two weeks ago

S2- Halo is Halo 2 though

S1- Yea, Halo 2. But when I bought my x-box all I had was halo.

Me- What's the other game?

S1- Fishing

S2- Haha

S1- I got that like 3 weeks ago, but that's the only reason I bought the x-box, was for Halo. I don't game much other than Halo.

S2- Yea, when I bought my x-box I bought it when Halo, the first one, Halo: Combat evolved, that was the full name of it. when that was out. I bought it in the anticipation of Halo 2, but when I bought the x-box I bought with halo because at the time that game was also addictive, fiercely addictive.

Me- So the addicting thing is just getting better ranking, and then the time flies by.

S2- Right, right.

Me- So you always wanna go back and do better?

S2- That's my ranking right there. For team slayer. That's my ranking. The highest you can get up to is 50 and I'm at 29.

S1- You can always do better

Me- So what's J. J. Redick's ranking?

S2- They don't know. They don't know. They didn't say online. If you have people's gamers tag...

S1-The problem is you can't get to 50 so you're actually playing for something that's unattainable and that's why you keep playing.

Me- Why can't you get to 50?

S1- Because it's so hard. They've made it almost impossible, and then people have cheated on there so then you lose ranking because they're cheating and you're back to square one.

S2- I would say to include with that one main reason it's so addicting is because there's always people better than you and there's always room to improve. There's always new parts. You're always evolving when you play too.

S1- And your friends are always saying they're better than you, especially [Subject Four].

S2- Hahaha

S1- He's probably the most competitive person in the world

S2- like just the other day [Subject One] showed me something new in a certain map...how to jump better. It's just like you learn new tricks, tricks, tricks, tricks, all the time. The fuckin midship jump.

S1- oh short jump, short jump

Me- Midship?

S2- There's a jump, there's like a lift, you hit a lift and it shoots you up up to the next level. What I'm saying is you evolve, you learn new tricks, you add new elements to your game. Bxb

S1- bxb

Me- What's bxb?

S2- It's a new special trick on how to kill someone faster when you're...when it's called melee attack them and like using your gun and hitting them in the head. Yeah. Learn new tricks, evolving, getting better....never ends

Me- Ok. Do you think the typical stereotype of gamers fits you at least a little bit since you do spend so much playing instead of doing other things like staying up late at night not doing homework. You've got the gamer...you showed me the gamer position, you said it hurts your back. You're hard core

S2- I was doing it when she was in here and she was like “yeah [Subject One] told me about the gamer position.”

Me- I mean not to say you’re a nerd because I mean like we were talking about J.J Redick and Adam Morrison.

S1- I think I play Halo a lot, but I’m not like a video enthusiast.

S2- Right like I don’t really know much about a lot of video games really

S1- I play one game

S2- I just like to play I don’t know why. I do agree I fit the stereotype on some levels if by playing for hours and not doing your homework and staying up late.

S1- But I’m not asian and I’m not fat.

Me- Is that a typical stereotype?

S2- Asian’s like, Asian’s are good at video games. They’re know for their gaming ability...stereotypically

S1- And I think this games horrible that we’re addicted to because we like just killing people.

That’s just the way it is

S2- But I just want to let you know I don’t feel like I should go out and be violent towards anybody.

S1- No I don’t see it like that.

S2- What would be another stereotype of a gamer? Besides playing for hours on end...

Me- But like I even wrote this in one of my papers...like we said about Morrison and Redick, two big time athletes, jock guys are into gaming. The Illinois basketball players are into gaming. Ya know

S2- It’s everywhere

Me- So it’s not like you’re a nerd who wears glasses that does homework all the time. I mean it’s just....They fit the gamer I’m sure they sit in the gamer position.

S2- Yea, my friend told me to facebook this girl who plays it. So I mean...like you as a non-gamer, I have a question for you miss questioner, what are the stereotypes of a gamer? Like what do you see as a gamer? And I will tell you

Me- Stereotypically people used to see gamers are nerdy people who don’t have anything better to do with their time.

S1- No social lives.

Me- But those are the same things that they look at people who get on the internet all the time, but every college student I know, those are the people who are the popular ones. The ones who are on facebook and sending messages and on AOL being social.

S2- It's a social network.

Me- and not that this is necessarily social, but like people spend time doing this it's just like they get addicted. Personally, because my brother played sports and all his friends were athletic, jockey guys and they all sat around gaming, so I don't see the gaming stereotype that way. I just see it as the jockey guys usually play more sports. I just see a gamer to be any guy basically.

S1- And the jockey guys are more competitive too which is why they play Halo

S2- This is true. This is probably the most competitive game I've ever seen in my entire life. Even when I was just playing Halo when Halo came out it didn't have the online capabilities, and you could just sit there with your friends in the same room and it wasn't nearly competitive in my mind, but now you've got these people like across the United States. You're playing people in England and you're like "Oh fuck that I'm gonna kick this guy's ass." And then you like have to kick his ass. I don't know. It's just so competitive I don't know why. But we fit the stereotype, yes, we're guys, we game for hours, many hours.

Me- But you're not nerds. That's the common stereotype, but like 15 years ago. I don't think that's the stereotype anymore. I just thought I'd ask that question.

S2- It's kind of becoming more of a mainstream thing.

Me- [Subject One] you are definitely a little...Like I enjoy watching you guys. [My friend 1], I brought her up here last night just because it's so funny, and you come in here and watch [Subject Two] and Subject Three, and [my friend 2] also told me she was like, "I can't not laugh. I go in there and watch them and it's hilarious. And I told her you have to go watch [Subject One], he's hilarious. You just get so in a zone, and so intense.

S1- I know I know, I just don't wanna play bad.

S2- Yea and I feel bad because I'm sitting here I'm in the zone and I'm talking to people on the headset and I know people are behind me and they're just like sitting there and I feel bad that I'm like completely ignoring them

S1- Because he knows I'll yell at him

S2- Yea, exactly because I know if he comes in here and I'm not all into the game he'll come in here and yell at me. If I have instant messenger up and running while the games playing.

S1- I'll know

S2- Cause I get distracted

Me- Haha, you know?

S1- Yea

Me- Alright inform me about all the technology and I hear a lot of lingo, so inform me of what means what.

S1- Technology in the x-box live, the halo game, and internet. The fast connection, if you have a slow connection you're gonna get raped.

Me- and that's the lag?

S2- Yes the lag

S1- The lag, the lag.

S2- You need a broadband Ethernet connection in the router. You need a broadband connection and you can connect online.

Me- And you can play the person across the hall or the person across the world?

S2- The person in England, exactly. There's actually a lot of British people who play this time.

S1- And British people cheat because they change their x-box. They change their hardware

S2- Also known as MODDING ([Subject One] and [Subject Two] at the same time) It's short for modifying

S1- Everyone knows that

Me- Noobz, I know n00bzS and

S1- Pwning n00bz. It's written and spoken lingo

S2- Haha, we yell a lot. Pwning is owning or dominating or kicking ass. So you're pwning n00bz that means you're kicking an amateur's ass online.

Me- so basically the technology has basically made it what is so addicting? It's greatly affected your gaming culture

S2- Yeah not only can you play but you can also talk to them while you play because of the headset. Increased communication.

Me- So Halo was huge but Halo 2 is bigger because of the technology difference

S2- X-box live has brought in millions of more fans

Me- And are you anxiously awaiting Halo 3?

S1- There's not gonna be a Halo 3

S2- Yes there will.

Me- and the x-box 360 just came out and you have that at home [Subject Two]? What's that do?

S2- It had backwards compatibility so you can play old x-box games on my new one, with all the other x-box and x-box live factors.

Me- ok any other lingo?

S2- the nades, grenade.

Me- What was spawning?

S1- that's what you come back alive after you die.

S2- It's not like we have a whole new language but there's definitely words associated with just halo, there's definitely words you don't hear at parties.