THE WAY

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MESSAGE FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY

Grand Theft Auto 6 (GTA 6) is one of the most anticipated video games of all time. Its release on November 19 this year on XBox Series X and PlayStation 5 is already being heralded as a productivity catastrophe as millions of working adults in Australia and across the world plan to take time off work, legitimately or illegitimately, to play the game.



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The game's anticipation is due to the game's production studio, Rockstar Games, and the quality of games it has a track record of producing. 2013's Grand Theft Auto 5 and 2018's Red Dead Redemption 2 were beloved by video-game nerds, part-time gamers and critics alike for their almost endless open-world maps, their compelling stories and the level of minute and quality detail the developers rendered.

Needless to say, these games were not without their controversies either and GTA 6 will absolutely continue in that tradition. The Grand Theft Auto series is notorious for allowing gamers to hijack cars, run over pedestrians and shoot at just about anything including police. Increasingly, the inclusion of drug use, explicit nudity and sex scenes, and rampant foul language have become staples of the series. Yet it is the game's tone, a dark, criminal satire of contemporary society that is perhaps the most clever, but also the most sinister aspect of the game.

While this cynicism can be appreciated for what it is by adults, a playful (if not grotesque) parody of modern society, this subtlety is often lost on children. Taken at face value, the game encourages a dangerous disrespect for authority and for society at large.

GTA 6's R 18+ Australian rating should be enough to ward parents off buying or allowing their children to play the game, but let us unequivocally tell the College community: do not buy GTA 6 for your child.

Finally, with that being said, it's also worth pointing out that purchasing GTA 6 online may be easier and more discrete for your child than you imagine. The only definitive way for you to block this is to ensure any existing account on the console has their restriction settings enabled, to counter any age-inappropriate content. This can be done via the console's built-in Family and Parental Controls settings, which strictly blocks any transactions or downloads matching restricted age ratings.

The English Faculty

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