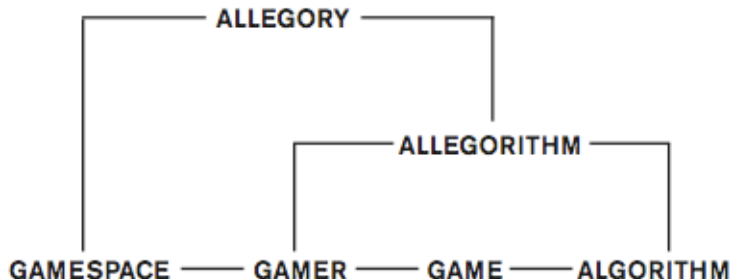


Reading:

McKenzie Wark's article, *Digital Allegories*

http://www.ics.uci.edu/~frost/US12C/wark_Sims.pdf



Assignment:

Liz Losh described what she thought was a problem with serious games: that players can play games in different ways than intended by developers, thus undermining the rhetorical strength of the game's argument or transfer of learned skills to real life situations. Apply concepts from Wark's *Digital Allegories* article to to make a clear argument about how this problem of serious games can be described through the interrelationships of allegory, allegorithm, algorithm, gamespace, gamer and game. In other words, where exactly does this "problem" exist (in reference to allegory, allegorithm, algorithm, gamespace, gamer and game)? Could the problem be thought of as a disconnection between two or more of these variables? Argue which variables you think are involved in this problem, and clearly describe the dynamics of Liz Losh's problem of serious games in reference to Wark's diagram.

Write a cogent, well-reasoned essay in response to the above reading. After a brief summary of the article, do your best to connect Losh's argument about the problem with serious games with Wark's article and diagram. Briefly restate the arguments of Losh's problem of serious games and Wark's diagram, and take a standpoint (thesis) about where Losh's problem of serious games could be best mapped onto Wark's diagram. Be sure to use quotations from the article to support your claim (thesis). Your 150 – 250 word, typed essay must be electronically submitted. Do not include illustrations or drawings.

TIPS:

- After briefly summarizing the important points of the reading and Losh's problem of serious games, make a claim (an "argument") about which variables of Wark's you think are involved in the problem of serious games as defined by Losh.
- Back up your claim by using specific evidence from the text itself (Wark) to support your claim. Quote something from Wark's *Digital Allegories*, and explain what it means.
- Try to insightfully argue your thesis by defining clear sub-arguments. Sustain your thesis/argument through your written response.

DUE:

Turn in to: Upload your diagnostic on EEE to the drop box US12-FinalDiagnostic by 6pm on Thursday, May 22nd.