

# Ellen Heitmann

elheit23@gmail.com | San Diego, CA | ellenbita.wixsite.com/elheit

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning narrative designer and media specialist with knowledge in psychology. Passionate about interdisciplinary work that explores the impact of interactive storytelling on player wellbeing.

## SKILLS

Game Design | Interactive Storytelling | Communication | Research | Critical Thinking | Writing

## TOOLS

Unreal Engine | Unity | C# | Blueprints | Figma | Adobe After Effects | Adobe Photoshop

## EXPERIENCE

### Research Designer

January 2025 - Current

#### DigiPen Institute of Technology

- Assisted a psychology professor in designing a video game for use in aggression research
- Wrote a thorough design document to help the professor communicate their ideas to designers

### Identities at Play Teaching Assistant

January 2025 - Current

#### DigiPen Institute of Technology

- Fostered a positive learning environment for a sociology in video games course
- Provided thoughtful feedback and guidance for student research papers

### Creative Director & Narrative Designer (Academic)

January 2024 - Current

#### Fenris Games

- Led a cross-disciplinary team of 27 students in creating a 3D adventure game in Unreal Engine
- Wrote a provocative narrative exploring themes of grief and moving forward
- Experimented with ludonarrative design methods to foster player emotional engagement
- Hosted meetings, documented action items, and facilitated communication to help production

### Web Designer

August 2023 - January 2024

#### Global Callcenter Solutions

- Conducted thorough research on 30+ companies to develop a web design formula
- Created introduction videos for home page in Adobe After Effects
- Prototyped website in SquareSpace

### Narrative Designer Teaching Assistant

August 2024 - December 2024

#### DigiPen Institute of Technology

August 2023 - December 2023

- Gave a lecture on game analysis methods and ran weekly workshops to assist students in entering an international narrative review competition, 4 of whom won
- Issued extensive feedback on longform creative assignments

## AWARDS

### Platinum Winner: Game Narrative Review Competition

January 2023

- Spoke at 2023 Game Developers Conference after winning international contest

## EDUCATION

### Bachelor of Arts in Game Design | Minor in Psychology

April 2025

DigiPen Institute of Technology; 3.596 GPA