

# LIFE IS STRANGE

Narrative Review By Ethan Pranger

## OVERVIEW

Life is Strange is a beautiful coming of age story that captures the struggles of adolescence, filled to the brim with a compelling story, realistic characters, and emotional, heart warming moments. DONTNOD did not hold back when it came to showing the darker side of growing up, and it's this authenticity that causes so many players to connect with the beautiful story they created.



"With tremendous cunning, Donthod's game moves from a teenage super-power fantasy toward a comment on our universal wish to repair time." - Christopher Byrd, Washington Post

## STRONGEST ELEMENT

One of the strongest elements in Life is Strange has to be the main mechanic of Max's rewind power, because of how this helps to give the player more agency over how the story unfolds. By giving the player a mechanic that is explained in the narrative, the player is able to fully interact with the narrative by exploring every choice without breaking immersion or ruining the flow of gameplay, and players are able to tailor the story to their wants.

## LESSONS

- 🦋 Make It Clear When Choices Are Important
- 🦋 Make Sure Narrative and Gameplay Complement Each Other
- 🦋 It's OK To Base Characters Off Tropes, But DON'T Write Them As Tropes

## BREAKDOWN

Life is Strange is a game that shines because of the mature topics that is is unafraid to talk about, such as bullying, depression, sexual assault, and grief. Because of this, audiences are able to find a part of the story that they are able to relate to.